

STEEL STRIKE

Pickets tighten stranglehold on stockholders as strikers in South Wales respond to deadlock

From Tim Jones Cardiff

Steelmen on strike in South Wales, bitter over the failure of talks at national level to resolve their dispute, said yesterday that they would stop the movement of all steel.

Mr Brian Connolly, the divisional organiser of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said: "We will be picketing all private steel plants, stockholders and major users. We are determined that no steel at all will be moved in South Wales."

Throughout the day squads of secondary pickets from the union attempted to strengthen their stranglehold on industry by preventing supplies from being moved from stockholders. Two big users, the Hoover factory at Merthyr Tydfil and Metal Box at Neath, were again

affected as incoming lorry drivers refused to cross the lines.

Mr Maurice Webb, managing director of one steelmaking company, Alphastee, of Newport, said pickets were outside his plant in apparent defiance of national guidelines which rule out action against private steel plants, whose workers have a separate pay agreement and are not on strike.

He estimated that there were 20 pickets outside the gates. It appears the local strike committee is acting independently. It must agitate them to see steel supplies being moved within sight of the Llanwern stockholders. Mr Webb considered that his company could not continue production if supplies were disrupted for more than two weeks. The strikers at Newport had

been incensed by reports that members of the Steel Industry Management Association (SIMA) were doing work normally done by union members. Some men were threatening to retaliate by stopping essential work being carried out on blast furnaces which have to be kept in operation at a low level to prevent serious damage to them.

Allegations that SIMA staff at Port Talbot were exceeding their normal duties angered the men there, who said they would "try to get the message across at the picket line".

As the strike, originally envisaged as a "short, sharp engagement", threatened to become prolonged and increasingly bitter, steelworkers in Newport have been told they can receive help with their council rents and mortgages.

Steel corporation and unions give details of the conditions that caused breakdown of negotiations Self-financing deal was sticking-point

By Paul Routledge Labour Editor

The width of the negotiating gulf that separates the two sides in the state steel strike is underlined by the two documents on their respective positions published by the British Steel Corporation and the steel unions.

The TUC trade union coordinating committee's proposals suggest a 13 per cent increase all round for 150,000 workers in the industry in return for a "national commitment" to introduce productivity bargaining at plant level.

British Steel says the loss-making industry cannot afford any increase that is not paid for out of improved performance and productivity, and insists that the whole of this year's wage settlement should be self-financing.

At the point of breakdown in the negotiations the striking unions said in their proposals: "The representatives of the trade union coordinating committee will be prepared jointly to recommend to their respective negotiating bodies and executive committees the following points as a basis for the resumption of normal working and the settlement of current pay negotiations:

1 A general increase of 8 per cent on all existing elements of pay from December 31, 1979.
2 A further 5 per cent from that date on all existing elements of pay on account of the negotiations and implementation of lump sum bonus schemes on a divisional or works basis.
3 A national commitment by all the parties concerned to the introduction of such schemes and

to the principle of local joint bargaining in relation to such schemes at divisional or works level.

4 An agreement by the unions to establish local joint productivity committees with the union concerned to assist with specialized resources.

5 Agreement to the provision of a joint review of productivity scheme is not yielding the anticipated returns. In specific situations it will be open to both sides jointly to seek advice and assistance from mutually agreed sources.

6 Agreement that the trade union coordinating committee will continue in existence to deal with any problems arising from such negotiations, and will as appropriate, involve national negotiations.

7 Constructive discussions will be held concerning the introduction of 12-hour week or a shorter working year with view to the being effective from January 1, 1981.

Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of British Steel, said the two sides were divided by three things: the unions could not convince the corporation that their proposals would be self-financing; or that they could "wrap up" the national pay round with local productivity bargaining; and it did not overcome BSC's money shortage.

In rejecting the unions' proposal, the British Steel Corporation board said that negotiations for a pay settlement should be based on:

1 A general increase of 8 per cent based on a national agreement to include changes essential to improve the efficiency of the industry, particularly flexibility in working practices, reduced manning at ongoing plants, non-

recruitment of labour to fill vacancies, and in order that such an agreement should be self-financing.

2 A further increase of a minimum 4 per cent (in lump sum payments) arising from locally negotiated lump sum bonus schemes. BSC were prepared to consider such a minimum benefit from the schemes, but expected the average payment under the schemes.

In addition, steelworkers concerned with traditional productivity schemes would receive further increases. Last year's locally negotiated schemes yielded an average of 6.7 per cent on top of the nationally negotiated settlement.

The BSC board considered that an offer based on these principles would be in line with its own objectives as well as those of the unions, significant increases in earnings for steelworkers, and self-financing of these increases through improved performance.

"In response to the representations from the trade union coordinating committee, the board are now prepared to make one advance payment during the January/March quarter at the rate of 4 per cent of gross earnings of the last quarter of 1979 (the minimum guaranteed in respect of lump sum bonus schemes)."

The board also considers that a pay agreement tied to increases in efficiency in the industry, arising from a national agreement intended to be self-financing, and from the proposed local lump sum bonus schemes is essential to the competitiveness of the industry and to job security within it.

HOME NEWS

Procedural impasse averts crisis at Stormont

From Christopher Thomas Belfast

After a precarious and uncertain day the Government last night saved its constitutional conference on Northern Ireland from imminent collapse. But the atmosphere remains tense, with a strict official clampdown on information.

The Stormont conference was salvaged simply by not holding any substantive discussions. It is still bogged down on the question of which matters can be put on the table for debate, and a further attempt to break the impasse will be made this morning. The crisis that was delayed yesterday may then erupt.

After that the conference is not due to resume until Monday week because of previous engagements by Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and leaders of the three participating parties.

Each party yesterday presented Mr Atkins with written proposals on the political way forward. The most striking impression was of firmly entrenched positions ranging from a deep commitment to Irish unity to a blunt insistence on continued union with Britain.

The Social Democratic and Labour Party, main political voice of Roman Catholics, was exceptionally forthright: "No longer can the rest of one small section of the Irish people be allowed to condemn the vast majority... to further decades of suffering and strife."

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, was as less hard hitting in a document which might suggest a united Ireland. Its main demand was for far tougher security measures for tougher the atrocities of the IRA.

The paper said: "This conference cannot give any concrete answer to the question of what happens if a united Ireland cannot come out of this conference."

That said, it will be enormously difficult for Mr Atkins to devise an agenda that will bridge a chasm between Mr Paisley and the Catholic leaders.

The minister yesterday submitted a list of issues that might form an agenda, but it does not include power sharing, Irish unity or security.

It refers cautiously to "the role of the minority" in a new elected assembly.



Judge retires: Judge Alan King-Hamilton, QC, (above) who recently told a jury they were "merciful" to acquit four self-styled anarchists, left the Central Criminal Court yesterday after almost 16 years' service there. Tributes were paid to his humour,

patience and humanity when court staff from judges to ushers crammed Number One Court for the farewell ceremony to the judge, aged 76, who presided over the trial and acquittal of Mr Peter Hain, the former Young Liberal leader, the Playland vice trial and the Gay News trial.

New rules on sale of medicines

By a Staff Reporter

Extra safeguards against the misuse of home medicines are to be introduced from February 1, the Pharmaceutical Society announced yesterday.

Some laxatives, eye drops and lozenges and large packs of pain-killers will be available only from pharmacists from that date under the phasing in of the Medicines Act, 1968.

The new regulations will apply, among others, to Senokot, Multivite, Tropin, Murine, Optrex eye drops, Dequadin, lozenges, Selsun shampoo and a large pack of Parasetamol.

Mr David Sharp, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, said yesterday: "Anyone needing help has only to consult a pharmacist to receive properly qualified advice, for which there is no charge."

Whisky to go up by 30p a bottle

By Derek Harris Commercial Editor

Distillers Company, one of the largest Scotch whisky suppliers in the United Kingdom, is raising its prices to the trade by £2.50 a case and that is likely at the retail counter to mean an increase of about 30p a bottle.

Brands affected include Haig, White Horse, Dewar's, Crawford's, Buchanan's Blend and John Barr.

Increases will go through on February 8 but Teachers, another large supplier, is putting through on January 21 a £2.50 case increase which will probably mean a 20p-a-bottle rise in the shops.

Distillers Company, gins, Gordons and Booth's, are also going up in the shops by about 20p a bottle.

BL foreman 'allowed men on night shift to sleep'

From Our Correspondent Birmingham

Mr Robert Yates, British Leyland foreman, was dismissed for allowing men to sleep on the night shift at the Rover works in Solihull, West Midlands, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

He was in charge of 32 men on the night shift who were dismissed, disciplined, or who resigned rather than be dismissed.

It happened, the tribunal at Birmingham heard, in June after a six-month investigation into alleged clock-card malpractices at the plant. Security officers kept watch from behind an extractor fan in a paint shop from where they could see a clocking point.

Mr John Shyer, plant protection manager, said that on June 14 he had seen a day-shift worker come in to the factory and knock on the

door of the foreman's office. A little later, through a window, he saw two men, naked from the waist up. Five minutes afterwards Mr Yates came out. He was dressed.

Mr Alan Walters, a supervisor, said he had seen another man come from the office carrying a Land-Rover seat cover of having used as a bed. Only three men, none of them Mr Yates, had gone to the clocking point before 6.45 am, the end of the shift. Two of them had clocked 24 or 25 cards.

Mr John Shyer, personnel manager, said the company was satisfied that Mr Yates had allowed men to sleep on a night shift and had allowed clocking offences in which he had taken part.

Mr Yates, of Coplow Close, Balsall Common, Warwickshire, claims that he was unfairly dismissed. He will give evidence today.

CBI statement expected after employers' meeting

By Our Industrial Staff

Representatives of a wide cross section of steel-using industries last night spent more than two hours discussing the difficulties which industry will face from the continuation of the national strike by employees of the British Steel Corporation.

The meeting, held at the invitation of the Confederation of British Industry at its London headquarters, included leaders of the British Steel Corporation, the British Scrap Federation and the British Independent Steel Producers' Association (BISPA) together with other company representatives. The employers' organisation is expected to issue a formal statement today.

Senior officials at the Department of Industry are being provided with a detailed assessment of the latest stock positions across industry on a daily basis. The Midlands steel producer, Ductile Steels, which has been the subject of picketing yesterday that it may have to start laying off some of its workers today.

Later today Mrs Margaret Thatcher will chair a meeting of the National Economic Development Council where trade union leaders will air their concern at the effects of Government's free-market policies. But there is no indication that the Prime Minister is planning to intervene in the dispute which will have critical repercussions throughout industry.

Thousands of workers face lay-offs and many companies will be forced to make redundancies if the steel strike continues into next month. Mr Stanley Speight, chairman of the national council for the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, said yesterday: "It could be more serious than the three-day week." He said: "I think by the end of January if there is no settlement and the blockade on im-

ported steel continues it could be extremely serious."

Mr Speight, whose association has 54,000 member firms, added: "I am hoping that common sense will prevail among workers in the steel industry. I am not fully convinced their views have been taken into account."

Ford of Britain yesterday described the strike as presenting "a difficult, ominous and dangerous situation for the British motor industry. The company's steel stocks will keep production tracks running until early February but there remains uncertainty over supplies of components from external companies."

FI and Talbot (formerly Chrysler UK) also hold four to six weeks' steel stocks and Vauxhall said it did not expect difficulties for several weeks. GKN, one of the larger motor industry suppliers, said it was continuing to produce normally. The Engineering Employers' Federation is monitoring its members each day and gave warning yesterday of the serious long-term effects of the strike.

A spokesman said: "The industry is particularly vulnerable now, following our own dispute last year and the prospect of difficult trading conditions in 1980."

The National Coal Board, which supplies 85% of the country with 180,000 tons of coking coal a week, said coal that could not be moved was being put to stock. North Sea operations: Work in the North Sea would be interrupted in a matter of days rather than weeks, by steel shortages, according to British Petroleum (Pearce Wright writes). Deliveries of pipework and other components are made almost daily to platforms involved in drilling and exploration operations. But there are no immediate difficulties for the wells in routine production of oil.

Mr Basnett sees 'very bitter dispute' ahead

Continued from page 1

one of the TUC leaders to attend today's National Economic Development Council, chaired by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, said the BSC had rejected a unique offer.

"I am astounded that this has been rejected," Mr Basnett went on. "But we need not look too far for the blame. Behind the incompetence of the BSC negotiators has been the role of this Government."

Mr Basnett, who is chairman of the TUC's influential economic committee, expected to discuss the employment implications, this morning, predicted "a very bitter dispute indeed."

Our Political Correspondent writes: Mrs Thatcher received reports from ministers and officials yesterday about the effects of the strike and the secondary picketing aimed at halting stockholders' supplies.

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry, had duties which took him out of London, but Mrs Thatcher discussed the matter with the Secretary, Mr Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Industry, Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Angus Maude, Paymaster General, and Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General.

Afterwards it was made clear that the Government would not intervene. It is left as a matter to be settled between the British Steel Corporation and the unions, within the cash limits set by the Government.

Sir Keith will make a statement to the House of Commons when Parliament resumes next Monday after the Christmas recess. Leading article, page 13 The pressures, page 17

Teachers send pupils home in timetable dispute

By Diana Geddes Education Correspondent

Thousands of children were sent home from schools in Avon and Trafford yesterday when teachers refused to take classes under new timetables which have had to be revised in the middle of the school year because of staffing cuts.

Children returning to school in 14 other local authority areas had their work disrupted by teachers refusing to teach what they consider to be over-size classes or to take the place of absent colleagues who, but for the reduction in education spending, would have been replaced by temporary supply teachers.

Both Avon and Trafford have warned the teachers that they are in breach of contract and that their salaries will be docked.

No schools have been closed yet. Children are being sent home only for some lessons or part of the day. Teachers are continuing to report for work, but are remaining in the staff room rather than taking classes.

A delegation from the National Union of Teachers, the only union involved in the Avon dispute, is to meet the authority on Friday to discuss the effect of the latest round of expenditure cuts.

Avon estimated last night that about one-third of its secondary schools had been affected by the NUT action.

Miss Jane Thomas, head of the schools in the group, said in a 2,000-pupil Harrogate comprehensive school in Bristol, the largest and most severely affected of the Avon schools, said that pupils' education had been severely disrupted in the middle of the school year because of the timetable changes.

In Trafford, about three quarters of the authority's 126 schools have been affected by the joint action of the NUT and the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers. They are refusing to operate the new timetables which have had to be introduced because of the cut of 90 teaching posts.

The Assistant Masters' Association is refusing to cover for absent colleagues.

Some parents from Moss Park Junior School have instructed a solicitor to initiate legal proceedings, against the Trafford authority, on the grounds that it is failing in its duty laid down in the 1944 Education Act to provide full-time education for children in its area.

NUT teachers in Leicestershire, Sutton, Ealing and Hillingdon have decided not to cover for absent colleagues because of the reduction of supply teachers caused by spending cuts.

No-cover action by NUT members continues in Surrey, Warwickshire, Bexley, Newham, Harrow and the Basildon and Barrow areas. Essex, in Kent, Buckinghamshire and Rotherham, NUT members are not covering for absent colleagues and are refusing to teach classes of more than 30 pupils in secondary schools or more than 27 in infant classes.

Mr Barbara Tizard, a reader at the London Institute of Education, said there was a strong belief that language development was important and that children should go to nursery schools to be exposed to all language expressions.

That view was especially prevalent among doctors where backward or working-class children were concerned, she told British Psychological Society's education and child division.

But the widespread belief that language used in working-class homes was inferior was "based on markedly slender evidence". Dr Tizard argued that at home children would often learn more and receive more attention and affection than at nursery schools.

Plea on nursery schools

From Frances Gibb Southampton

Nursery schools often offer far less to children than do parents and the home and their whole purpose should be re-examined, a conference of 100 educational psychologists in Southampton was told yesterday.

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The decision of the Rugby Football Union to send a British Lions team to South Africa was unanimously condemned at a meeting of the Labour Party international committee yesterday.

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School inspectors echo core curriculum call

By Our Education Correspondent

Proposals for a broad compulsory core curriculum, which might take up between two-thirds and three-quarters of teaching time in secondary schools, are put forward by the Schools Inspectorate in a discussion document published yesterday.

The inspectorate does not follow the Government's line of specifying minimum and maximum times to be devoted to specific subjects, but it does insist that the core curriculum should be part of the compulsory education of all secondary pupils up to the age of 16.

However, unlike the Government, the inspectorate does not recommend a national framework for a school curriculum published on Monday, the inspectorate explicitly recognises the difficulties of achieving some of the objectives it advocates because of the constraint on resources when schools have to employ teachers in such subjects as mathematics, science and modern languages.

DES HMI Series: Matters for Discussion II. "A View of the Curriculum." (Stationery Office, £1.50).

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Civil Service industrial action likely

By Our Labour Staff

Industrial action within the Civil Service last night after one union responded angrily to an arbitration award.

The award by the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal, covering 50,000 government engineers and technologists, fell well short of demands by the Institution of Professional Civil Servants for pay rises of between 36 and 47 per cent.

The union announced sanctions in protest at the award, which was decided by the casting vote of Mr David Calcutt, QC, the chairman.

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Mr Sirs is challenged on picketing

By Clifford Webb

Members of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation confronted Mr William Sirs, the general secretary, at Birmingham yesterday to claim that a private sector company was being forced to close because of secondary picketing.

They denied that Ductile Steels, Willenhall, Staffordshire, was switching supplies to British Steel customers.

Ductile Steel began closing down last night. Mr Norman Dukes, group works director, said: "Two hundred workers are being laid off and that will increase to 500."

An embarrassed Mr Sirs, in Birmingham to negotiate a 25 per cent claim for 5,000 private-sector workers, said: "We are under tremendous pressure from members to extend picketing to private sector companies who are helping BSC."

Mr Roy Bishop, the union's Midlands divisional officer, said: "We have evidence of relabelling of BSC steel. We have agreed to carry out an official on-the-spot investigation tomorrow."

Consett: Picketing in the north-east intensified, the TSCC brought office of the TSCC reporting that "any movement of anything made of steel is attracting the attention of our pickers" (Nicholas Timmins writes). A union official said there were suspicions of stockholders "profiteering" from the strike.

Two of the north-east's largest stockholders, Robert Frazer and GKN, at Huddersfield, said stocks were still moving out of yards. Picketing appeared to be peaceful.

In Consett the strikers' mood is one of quiet anger. Corby: Extra police were called to the British Steel plant after a woman office worker trying to cross picket lines was punched.

More than 2,000 engineering and electrical workers ignored the strike call but production was at a standstill. Maintenance men have been withdrawn.

Farmers told of 'lunatic' land cost levels

HOME NEWS

Trade union man fights party call for expulsion

From Our Correspondent
Oxford

The national executive of the Labour Party is considering whether an Oxford union official should be expelled from the party, on the basis of a recommendation to that effect from its organization committee.

The member in question, Mr. Ted Heslin, is chairman of the Transport and General Workers' Union bookshop branch at Blackwell, the Oxford booksellers. Labour's organization committee says he has spread the views of an organization "which was not affiliated to the Labour Party".

A year ago Mr. Heslin was expelled from Oxford City Labour Party because it was alleged he gave active support to the Workers' Socialist League, a Trotskyist group. He then appealed to the national executive of the party.

Today Mr. Heslin denied that he belonged to any other political organization. He said: "I would not like to comment until I have seen the recommendation in context. I would still like to be a member of the Labour Party."

Cancer in the 1980s-1: More than £25m a year spent on research in Britain

Death rate unlikely to improve this decade

By Annabel Ferriman
More than £25m a year is spent on cancer research in Britain, but the death rate from the condition has changed little since the war. Cancer accounted for about 20 per cent of all deaths during the 1970s and the rate seems unlikely to improve during the 1980s.

Research seems to have had little effect in reducing the death rate from the four big killers: cancer of the lung, large intestine, breast and stomach. Together they cause almost two thirds of all cancer deaths.

More women, in particular, are dying from cancer. Deaths from breast cancer, which were declining between 1943 and 1963, are increasing and deaths among women from lung cancer rose 40 per cent in the past decade.

Lung cancer deaths generally are on the increase, but the rate is slowing for men. In spite of a threefold increase between 1951 and 1975, the increase in the past decade has been only 3 per cent. Deaths from cancer of the large intestine and stomach are gradually declining.

Success has crowned research efforts in a few areas. Deaths from Hodgkin's Disease, a condition marked by enlargement of the lymphatic glands and spleen, which progressive anaemia, for example, fell from 844 in 1965 to 664 in 1973 and doctors believe that many patients are being cured.

Considerable strides have also been made in the treatment of childhood cancers, but deaths from them and from Hodgkin's Disease were never more than a small minority of cancer deaths.

The wide variation in death rates illustrates the complexity of cancer. It is not a single disease, but a condition which can affect virtually any cells in the body.

Its lethal potential varies enormously depending upon where it begins, where it spreads and at what stage treatment is begun. The simple "basal cell" skin cancer is easily treated and almost never spreads, but other cancers, such as some that affect the lung, spread rapidly and are virtually uncontrollable.

There are nearly all diseases of old age, however, a fact which accounts for their rise in the twentieth century. Infectious diseases were the main killers before 1900, but as they were brought under control, cancer and cardiovascular diseases have taken over as the main cause of mortality.

Different cancers are thought to have different causes though, with the exception of lung cancer and smoking, they have not been clearly established for the main cancers.

Most of the clues point towards diet as an important cause. An association between total fat intake and breast cancer has been observed on an international scale, as has a lack of fibre in the diet and cancer of the large intestine.

The incidence varies according to social class and geography and these differences have been studied to try to discover the cause.

Cancer of the breast and prostate are more common among the rich than the poor, but all the other cancers are more prevalent among the poor who, therefore, have a slightly higher death rate from cancer.

Geographical variations are noticeable particularly in relation to cancer of the stomach, which is more common in the North-east and North-west of England than in the South, and much more common in Wales. The incidence is lower in rural areas than in urban areas, which has suggested to some epidemiologists a connection with air pollution.

The incidence also varies enormously between continents. In Nigeria and Texas the rate is 7.2 per 100,000; in Japan it is 94 per 100,000. Bladder cancer varies considerably in distribution. In the United States geographical studies show high mortality in counties where there are a large number of workers in the chemical and motor vehicle industries.

The incidence among families has been studied to see whether genetic factors are important. They appear to be relevant in some of the main varieties.

Cancer of the breast, for example, is about three times more common in relatives of breast cancer patients than in the general population. Similarly cancer of the stomach and large intestine are somewhat more common in the relatives of patients.

There is, however, no evidence that many families have a heightened susceptibility to all forms of cancer in general.

The epidemiologist who studies those disease patterns is the Philip Maslove of the medical world. He must piece together the clues with thoroughness and interpret them with care.

Present thinking is coming increasingly to the view that a cure for cancer will not be found for 10 to 20 years or more, so the role of the epidemiologist has become crucial. Does he have the answers? Tomorrow: prevention versus cure.

Like the 412 and the other Bristol model, the 603 saloon, the Beaufighter has a distinctive aluminium body and is one of the few cars still made with a separate chassis. The front seats have electrical adjustment for reach, height and tilt and other standard features include air conditioning, leather trim and central door locking.

Selling cars directly from its London office in Kensington, Bristol was founded after the Second World War when the Bristol Aeroplane Company decided to use part of its factory at Filton for car manufacture.

Bristol Cars, a private company, still uses Filton, hiring production facilities from the British Aircraft Corporation. Next week Mr. Crook will fly to the United States to set up an export business there.

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Call to tighten law on private nursing homes

By Craig Seron
Serious doubts about the law on private old people's homes have been expressed after the death of a woman aged 83, an unregistered home in west London and her marriage to the male nurse who looked after her.

An inquest into the death of Miss Olive St. Barbe, who died on December 27, leaving more than £150,000, opened in Ham-mersmith yesterday. The family of Miss St. Barbe, who lived at Highgate, in north London, claim that she intended to alter her will when she married, but before she died the Court of Protection appointed the Official Solicitor as her receiver.

Hammer-smith council's social services department said that, together with the local health authority, it was inquiring into the home at Fitzjames Avenue, West Kensington, where Miss St. Barbe died. Although it had come to the authority's attention on several occasions, the home, run by a Mrs. Alice Klouda, was not registered as a nursing home, nor a residential home for old people.

Scotland Yard said it was keeping "a watching brief" on the matter. "At the inquest Mr. Wallace Davey, aged 45, who described himself as a voluntary helper at the home, said his marriage to Miss St. Barbe in October at Fulham Register Office, was valid."

De John Burton, the coroner, who adjourned the inquest for two weeks, said there was a difficulty because the death certificate had been altered. He said: "We have two St. Barbes and a Davey added on in a different handwriting."

Mr. Davey, who told the inquest he had spent four sleepless days and nights over Christmas looking after Miss St. Barbe, afterwards issued a statement through his solicitor saying he had married her because she had expressed her wish that her family would move her from the home.

He said his wife had always wanted to make a different will. After a long dispute with solicitors a statement will be issued by the Official Solicitor but Mr. Davey "expresses his wish" that he did not marry her to obtain any financial benefits, but merely to help her ensure that her wishes were complied with, he said. "Because of these circumstances she did not wish her family to know of the marriage."

Equity's request on financial cuts is refused
By Our Theatre Reporter
The request from Equity, the actors' union, that it should be consulted by the Arts Council before any cuts are made which could close theatre companies, has been refused by Sir Roy Shaw, the council's secretary general.

In a letter to the union, published yesterday, Sir Shaw said the council was not an employer of the actors. It had a different role: to assess the quality of work done by a particular company, its managerial and financial efficiency and the public need for its work.

He said: "It is unrealistic to seek to maintain the permanent survival of a particular company. In a truly free theatre there is change, decline and new growth."

Equity's request was made after the Arts Council announced a 14-week extension of funding, up to January 18, if the workshop shuts, £25,000 of Home Office capital will be wasted and 29 people will be unemployed.

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On January 18 the Government will stop supporting the scheme. One reason is that the workshop is in a rural area instead of an inner city.

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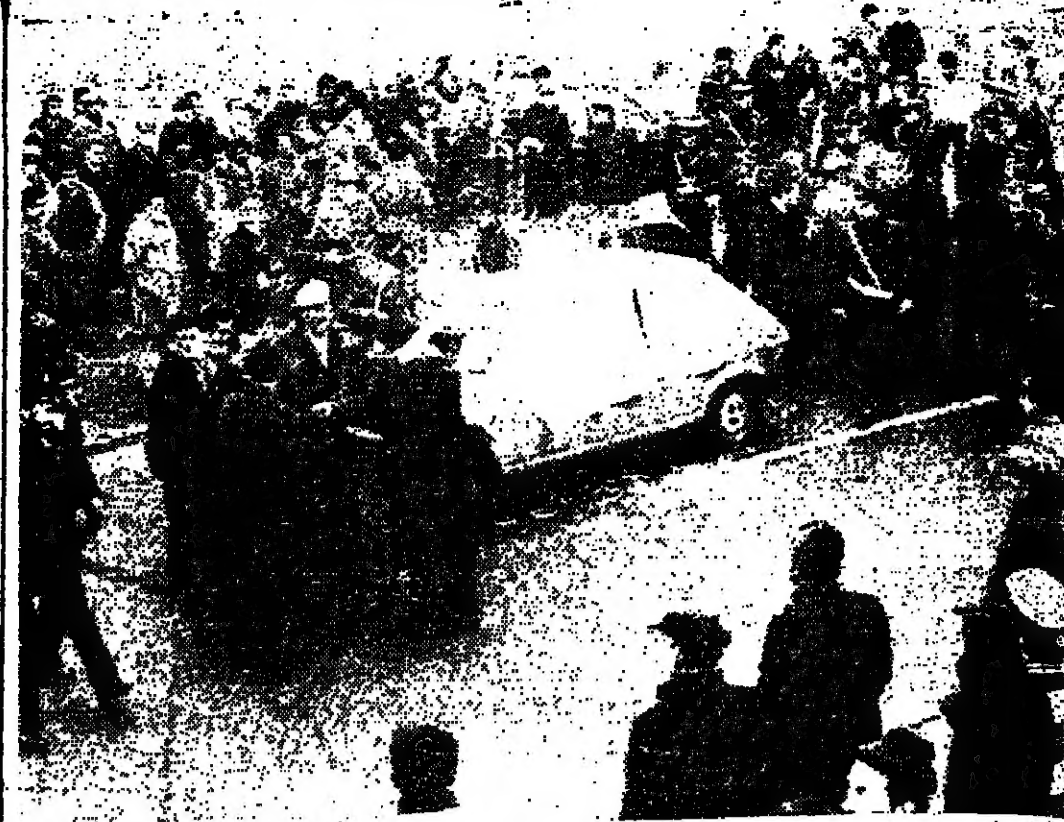
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WEST EUROPE



The car in which three policemen were machine-gunned to death.

Red Brigades terrorists murder three policemen in Milan

From Peter Nicholas
Rome, Jan 8

While Sicily today paid its bitter last homage to Signor Pizzardi, the murdered leader of its regional administration, gunmen struck in the north, with an ambush on the outskirts of Milan in which three policemen were machine-gunned to death.

The three victims in plain clothes were driving to carry out their regular duties of patrolling schools in the area. They were armed but there was no sign of any reaction on their part because the attack was swift.

Witnesses say that a Fiat 128 with three killers on board awaited the arrival of the police car from a grass verge. As the police car approached, the terrorists blocked the road with their car, stepped out with automatic weapons in their hands, two of the three with their faces covered, and proceeded to fire long bursts at the policemen.

One of the terrorists bent down to look through the front window, presumably to check the effects of their work, and then the three drove away.

Two witnesses who were behind the police car in the line of traffic were tonight said still to be suffering from shock. Responsibility for the murders was claimed in a telephone call by the far left-wing Red Brigades terrorist movement.

The retiring Archbishop of Milan, Cardinal Colombo, today prayed for "God's charity that the hand of Cain should no longer prevail against the honest and the innocent, and to restore this tormented city to its vocation of work and peace."

Some 29 police and carabinieri were killed in Italy in 1978 and 1979. The biggest attack so far by terrorists remains the kidnapping and later murder of Signor Aldo Moro, the Christian Democratic former Prime Minister, in May, 1978, when his five bodyguards were killed by the assassins.

President Pertini went to Palermo today for the funeral of Signor Matteotti who was murdered on Sunday when returning home with his family. His wife attended the funeral service with a bound arm which was injured when she tried to protect her husband.

The Archbishop of Palermo, Cardinal Pappalardo, said in his homily: "We do not know whether to cry more on the tomb of our dear brother, fallen at the height of his powers and of his service for the community, or for the tragic fate of Italy, lacerated by hatreds and moral shocks which compromise its very existence as a free and civilized country."

Cardinal Pappalardo said the crime could not be attributed solely to the Mafia. "There must have been other occult forces," beyond "our island". As the body was taken in procession to the cathedral, about 50,000 people gathered in the square to pay tribute.

His successor in the region's presidency, Signor Carlo Giuliani, said Signor Matteotti was "killed by an act of aggression aimed at the heart of our institutions: killed by terrorism and by the Mafia which find their point of fusion in the search for control over power and subversion of democracy's power."

Signor Giuliani's blaming of both terrorism and the Mafia reflects the confusion about the motive for the murder. Some seek a purely political explanation.

It was known that Signor Matteotti was proposing to bring the Communists into his next regional administration and there was talk that he might emerge from the forthcoming Christian Democratic national congress as the party's deputy secretary.

He supported the views of Signor Aldo Moro, who was kidnapped on the day he was due to attend Parliament for a vote of confidence in a government which for the first time had the official support of the Communists.

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AFGHANISTAN

Kremlin hardliners calculate that détente is an easy price to pay for strategic advantage

Russians prepare for freeze in relations with West

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Jan 8

The Russians are now bracing themselves for a sharp deterioration in their relations with America in the wake of their widely condemned intervention in Afghanistan and the measures announced in retaliation by President Carter.

But though the Soviet press is now mounting a virulent counter-attack on American policies around the globe, the reaction to the grain embargo, the postponement in opening an American consulate in Kiev and the American aid to Pakistan has been fairly restrained so far.

The Russians do not want to be seen to accept the idea that their intervention has had wider effects than they foresaw. Dispute is still official Soviet policy towards the West, though Moscow now has no illusion that it can survive in anything other than name for some years to come.

To the 15 elderly men in the Politburo who make the decisions, that probably does not matter. Over the past two years it has become obvious that the policy was not going to provide the security the Russians sought to allow them to pursue their own interests.

Relations with the United States have been under increasing strain ever since President Carter took office and the Russians believed there was little to be lost by upsetting him again.

The Russians judge their relations with the West by their relations with Washington. Other countries, except perhaps Germany, do not really matter. America is seen as the leader of NATO, and it is the Soviet-American relationship that affects issues of strategy,

security and the overall direction of the Western alliance. But the policy of détente, which is closely identified with President Brezhnev himself, has not seemed to work. Its trade benefits are marginal as the Americans have still not removed the restrictions on trade with the Soviet Union.

Increasingly in Soviet eyes détente has seemed to hold Moscow hostage to the hardliners in the Pentagon and in the Senate. The Russians are publicly warned they should not do this or that for fear of upsetting détente and jeopardizing the ratification of the SALT 2 treaty on the limitation of strategic arms.

Moscow badly needs the SALT 2 treaty, not only for economic reasons, but as an indication to the Soviet military leadership that it is possible to make binding agreements with the Americans on security matters.

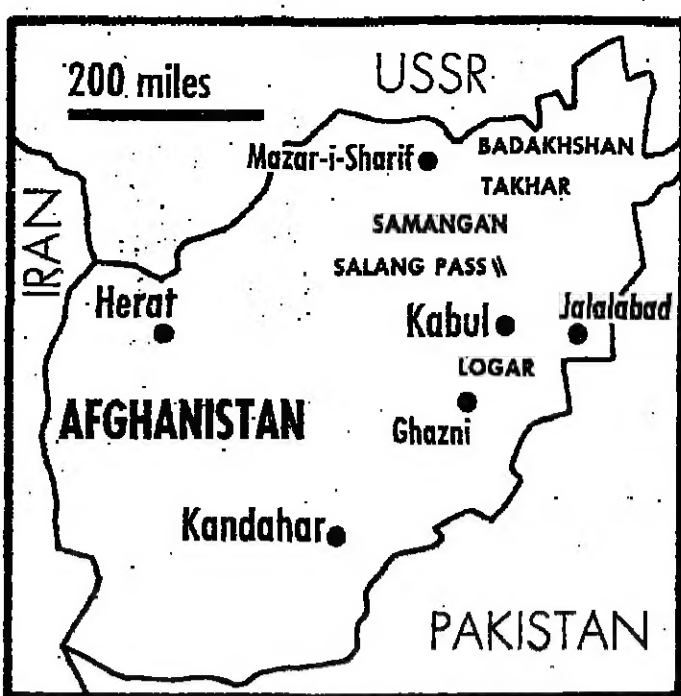
But the Russians do not want SALT if it is to weave a restraining net around what they regard as their vital interests in other parts of the world.

In the past year, they came to realize three things.

First, the American leadership appeared weak and was unable to make its displeasure with Soviet actions felt. Secondly, the SALT treaty was unlikely to be signed through the Senate however well the Russians behaved.

Thirdly, the main military value of SALT to the Russians—the guarantee that nuclear war would not be fought through the Soviet Union in Western Europe.

The Russians regarded Mr Carter as unpredictable. But they found that regarding him did not seem to matter.



They were angered by his human rights campaign and took the risk of rejecting one of his SALT proposals in 1977. Mr Carter drew up new proposals and toned down his human rights campaign. They placed dissidents on trial, risking American retaliation. In the end none of the SALT deals suffered.

The Americans ordered Soviet troops in Cuba to be withdrawn: the Russians refused, and after a face-saving accommodation the Americans dropped the issue.

The hardliners in the Politburo presumably drew the appropriate lessons, encouraged also by the example of Iran. At the same time they were intensely angered by the NATO decision last month, which was seen to be a result of American pressure.

posting to slow down the pace of left-wing reforms would provoke such condemnation. The Soviet media have shown the same rather puzzled anger as they did when the West condemned Vietnam's overthrow of Pol Pot.

But if Afghanistan signals an effective end to détente as the Russians have liked it the word to be understood, is Moscow expecting a return to the cold war?

The answer appears to be No—at least, not in the sense of the words in the 1950s. There are too many Western interests in keeping businesslike relations with the Russians. Trade is one, cultural contacts are only reluctantly broken by the West, and the Americans always have to sell their grain somewhere.

What Moscow now expects is a long-term freeze. Relations will clearly worsen in the immediate future, and Soviet advocates of closer contacts with the West are very pessimistic. In virtually every field, the Russians will now close the doors to the West for a while.

To the Kremlin that does not matter. Indeed it may well be welcome to the ideologists who feared that prolonged contact with the West was weakening the ideological basis of communism, lowering the vigilance against western influence.

In a few years' time the Soviet leadership will be preoccupied with its own succession struggle and the rapidly worsening economic situation. The need then will be to keep contacts with the West to a minimum until the internal situation is stabilized.

The hardliners in the Politburo may have calculated that détente was the easy price to pay for security on the borders and a strategic advantage that the West, for all its present threats and counter-measures, is unlikely to be able to take away.

Afghan headmen ask ex-king to come back

From Ian Murray

Azakhel, near Peshawar, Jan 8
Refugee Afghan headmen today issued an invitation to the deposed King Zahir Shah to return from exile in Italy and lead them in their fight to expel Soviet troops from the country.

"Please let our King know" one of the headmen said, "that if he would lead us we would fight for him and free our country." A hundred turbaned heads nodded in agreement. Everyone seemed to be an extremely reluctant refugee.

Azakhel Camp is a field beyond the railway tracks some 23 miles south-east of Peshawar. It has been set up by the Pakistani Government as one of a series of camps along the Pakistan border to accommodate the thousands of refugees pouring across from Afghanistan. Tents and food are provided and the refugees are issued with identity papers by the authorities.

But although the Pakistan writ of law runs there, the camp is really ruled by the five chosen headmen and it is they who keep real order among the 14,000 people on the scattered campsite. The youngest of the headmen is Hukam Khan, who thinks he is "about 40", and says that he has reached the rank of headman at so young an age, because all the other elders of his tribe have either been killed or jailed by the Russians.

With the four other headmen he has one real duty to further the war inside the country. They meet regularly to decide which of the men in the camp should be sent to join the fighting.

He says: "We have only one gun for each 20 men. The rest of us are sitting here because we have no weapons. If we had weapons we would go and fight."

So the camp has only about 500 men actually in the field. At regular intervals replacements chosen by the headmen are sent in and the tired fighters head back to the camp to leave Afghanistan.

Some of the men come back wounded. The most recent casualty here was hit in the side six days ago somewhere in the Duhundi region of Lower Punjab. According to him, fighting was intense everywhere and there were no other Afghans there than those actually joining in the guerrilla action.

Other men came up to show their wounds, stripping their sleeves or rolling up their shirts and revealing livid scars. One man was still wearing the

green corduroy waistcoat he had on when a bullet went right through his side. The neatly patched hole in it fitted right over the scar.

The camp has been here for about five months. But it seemed that everyone there had left the country because of the fighting with Soviet soldiers, which was going on fiercely long before the invasion, on Boxing Day, with Soviet helicopters using machine cannon and napalm.

According to Mr Hukam Khan the Soviet pressure had been building up ever since the takeover by President Taraki in 1978. He said that mosques in all the villages had been shut or even pulled down to stop them being used as assembly places for the people, and that the Russians had tried to persuade the village girls to go to Moscow and learn Russian.

"We resisted and because of that they sent tanks against us into the mountains. We have no weapons to fight the tanks so we dig deep holes in the roads and cover them with wood. When the tanks fall in we pour petrol on them. Think what we could do if we really had some weapons."

But rifles seem to be the only thing they understand. The man wounded last week said that they had captured two Afghan Army and aircraft guns but they were "too sophisticated for them to understand."

The people in the camp say they left Afghanistan only when they ran out of weapons. When they fled, they brought nothing with them except some beautiful Afghan rugs which they spread out on the ground in the field as their open-air meeting place and mosque.

They say that disease is starting to spread because there just is not enough food and the Pakistan medical help is not getting into their joints and causing rheumatism.

The children are given no schooling because their parents have been killed or jailed or have stayed to fight.

The men say they want to do nothing but fight the Russians and they all agree that they want their King back to lead them. But above all they want to be free to worship Allah in their way.

"We want nothing except Islam. We come from an Islamic land. We are Muslims and we want to be Muslims for ever," Mr Hukam Khan says. "Give us the guns and we will fight and die for Islam."

Lord Carrington on mission to confirm British support

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, leaves London today for a tour of five west and south Asian countries, with the objective of confirming British support and help in the aftermath of the Soviet action of Afghanistan.

His first stop will be Ankara, where he will have talks with the Foreign Minister today and the Prime Minister. As call on the Prime Minister, Turkey is a NATO country, closely involved in the allies' talks on meeting the crisis.

Tomorrow he flies to Oman, where the implications of the changed situation in Iran for the Middle East will be the main theme of talks with the

Sultan. The Foreign Secretary then goes on to Riyadh at the beginning of next week. The visit to such an important Muslim country as Saudi Arabia, which has already reacted very sharply to the Soviet intervention, is seen as particularly important.

In Pakistan, the country most directly concerned by the Soviet intervention, Lord Carrington will be discussing practical ways in which Britain can convey its support. Arms supplies seem certain to be on the agenda.

Finally, Lord Carrington expects to pay a brief visit to Delhi to hear the views of the new Prime Minister.

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Afghan soldiers man a checkpoint on the Jalalabad-Kabul road.

Angry Soviet reaction to Security Council debate

From Our Own Correspondent

Moscow, Jan 8

Russia today reacted angrily and sharply to the Security Council debate on Afghanistan and Western moves against the Soviet Union, saying the West was trying to go back to the cold war and had been gripped by a fit of hysteria that threatened to destroy détente.

Tass said the Security Council resolution, vetoed yesterday by the Soviet delegate, constituted a "call for a change in the existing order in Afghanistan."

The agency said the discussion of the so-called Afghan question had been imposed on the Council by America, China and their allies against the will of the Afghan Government. The clamour raised about it was being used as a pretext by the West to justify a return to the cold war.

The smear campaign unleashed by the United States was designed to disguise its sinister plans of expansion and hegemony. Meanwhile, Tass said, America was systematically increasing its military expenditure and intensifying its military preparations in the Middle East, the Indian Ocean and elsewhere.

Pravda today accused America, Britain, China and other countries of trying to stifle the 1978 Afghan revolution at its birth.

These countries, a commentator said, had formed a broad alliance of forces hostile to the Afghan revolution and had launched a campaign of sabotage, subversion, armed provocation and direct intervention in Afghanistan's affairs.

In recent months, the paper said, there was "virtually an undeclared war against the Afghan people." Imperialist circles had not given up their plans to undermine the April revolution and were looking for a pretext for further interference.

Pravda said the "unscrupulous game around Afghanistan" was fraught with dangerous consequences but would not succeed.

Referring to President Carter's sharp reduction in grain sales to the Soviet Union, the paper accused the President of election politics. In one of its most pointed personal comments against him, it said his actions were prompted by the need to appear firm in the period before the presidential election.

"If in the process it is intended to exert pressure on the Soviet Union by currying mutual advantageous connections and making efforts towards an arms race, such a course can bring no dividends to its authors", Pravda said.

Labour Party will protest to Soviet ambassador

By Michael Hatfield

Political Reporter

The Labour Party is to send a deputation to Mr Nikolai Lukov, the Soviet Ambassador in London, to condemn Moscow's intervention in Afghanistan.

The party's international committee, which decided on the deputation yesterday, also approved unanimously a resolution from Mr Eric Heffer

(Liverpool, Walton) stating: "This National Executive Committee, believing as it does in peace and friendship between nations, in détente in Europe, and the right of all nations to self-determination, condemns the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, and urges the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops forthwith in the interests of world peace."

War training in Egypt for guerrillas

From Christopher Walker

Aswan, Jan 8

In a concerted effort to promote armed resistance in Afghanistan, the Egyptian Government has already opened a number of special camps to provide military training facilities and weapons for Afghan guerrillas.

The existence of the new military camps, whose exact locations inside Egypt are being kept a close secret, was revealed here for the first time today by General Kamal Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Defence Minister.

He also disclosed that the Egyptian and American air forces have been carrying out joint training exercises somewhere in Egypt over recent weeks, leading to speculation that Egypt has already provided America with facilities to carry out aerial surveillance after the recent turmoil in the region.

Speaking to correspondents covering the ninth summit meeting between President Sadat and Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, General Ali made it clear that previous unspecified promises of Egyptian aid to anti-Soviet forces in Afghanistan would definitely include military assistance.

Details of the extent to which the Egyptians are prepared to go in spearheading counter-Soviet moves in Afghanistan has provided further evidence of the way in which concern about the Soviet threat in the Middle East has dominated the latest discussions between the Egyptian and Israeli leaders.

Spokesmen for both Governments would give no details of specific plans discussed by the two leaders but there is speculation that a very limited form of strategic agreement may be in the offing. They are understood to have agreed to another round of talks in addition to the two already scheduled.

OVERSEAS

Mr Mugabe threatens to break ceasefire if Mrs Thatcher lets 'violations' of agreement continue

Maputo, Jan 8.—Mr Robert

Mugabe, joint leader of the Patriotic Front, threatened today to break the Rhodesian ceasefire if Mrs Thatcher did not end violations of the peace agreement reached in London.

In a letter to Mrs Thatcher made public here, he blamed the violations on Lord Soames, the British Governor, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the former Prime Minister, and the Rhodesian armed forces.

Mr Mugabe, who commands the bulk of the guerrilla forces in the country, said Lord Soames had allowed South African military units to remain in Rhodesia despite the fact that the London agreement stated that they would be withdrawn.

He accused the Governor of allowing General Peter Walls, the commander of the Security Forces, to deploy his forces while guerrilla troops were confined to camps and risked encirclement.

Mr Mugabe, commander of the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (Zanla) also complained that Bishop Muzorewa's "auxiliary" forces had been allowed the same freedom of movement as the Security

Forces and were trying to move into territory evacuated by the Patriotic Front.

He also protested at Britain's decision to postpone the return of leaders of the Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu) to Rhodesia and said the development of the situation posed a "dangerous threat" to the elections set for next month. He added: "What chicanery is this, Madam Prime Minister?"

The letter demanded an immediate end to the alleged violations of the agreement and went on: "If they continue, I shall regard my side and its forces as equally free to dishonour, in a similar way, the ceasefire agreement."—Agence France-Press.

Complaints rejected: A British spokesman said none of Mr Mugabe's complaints concerning deployment of the Rhodesian troops, South African forces at Beit Bridge, and the presence of Security Force "auxiliaries" in rural areas, constituted a breach of the ceasefire, writes Nicholas Ashford from Salisbury.

He said the Governor was entitled under the Lancaster House agreement to use any forces that had accepted his authority, and the continued

presence of Patriotic Front guerrillas who had not reported to assembly areas was itself a breach of the ceasefire.

Lagos protest: Students backing Mr Mugabe occupied the British High Commission in the Nigerian capital of Lagos for 12 hours yesterday protesting against the presence of South African soldiers in Rhodesia—Agence France-Press.

Commonwealth anger: Strong criticism of Lord Soames's decision to allow South African troops to guard the Beit Bridge was voiced yesterday at a meeting of the Commonwealth Southern Africa Committee in London, writes David Spanier, Our Diplomatic Correspondent. Commonwealth representatives accused Britain of breaking firm undertakings given at the Lancaster House conference.

The Governor's move, when there is no serious breakdown of law and order, is considered a breach of faith.

An early meeting with Lord Soames, the Foreign Secretary, will be sought by Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, to express the committee's views.

Four killed in Iran during armed attack on gendarmes

Tehran, Jan 8.—Four Govern-

ment security officers were killed in a confrontation with insurgents in the Kurdist region of Western Iran today.

A Government column was ambushed as it withdrew from the Kurdist region of Mahabad, the official Press agency reported, quoting Mr Jamshid Haggo, Governor-General of West Azerbaijan province. He said the casualties occurred in an engagement in which the Government forces attacked and disarmed 120 gendarmes.

The column had to withdraw when it was faced by a group of protesting students and people opposing their presence in the city. He was quoted as saying: "The column was replacing another contingent of outgoing gendarmes."

The attack was by unidentified armed insurgents about 13 miles outside the city, he added. One gendarme was critically

wounded and the rest disarmed. "At the same time as the attack, four gendarmes were killed and four others wounded when a lorry collided with a gendarmie truck being stopped by insurgents", the Press report said.

Anti-Government crowds rallied in the north-western city of Tabriz today as sporadic unrest continued in Iran's troubled provinces.

Officials at the East Azerbaijan governor-general's office said at least 20,000 people rallied in support of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari.

Members of the opposition Muslim People's Republican Party (MPRP), supporters of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, estimated the crowd to be 100,000 strong and said some protesters tore down portraits of Ayatollah Khomeini, the revolutionary leader.—AP and Reuters.

Greek forces chief asks to be replaced

From Our Correspondent

Athens, Jan 8

General Ioannis Davos, who has been head of the Greek armed forces since September, 1976, has asked to be relieved of his duties in order, as an announcement by the Defence Ministry put it, "to facilitate the renewal of the country's military leadership."

The Defence Ministry said Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, had asked the general to stay as Chief of the National Defence General Staff last summer when he asked to be replaced.

Clearly, the Prime Minister was keen that General Davos, aged 61, should continue the negotiations which he had been conducting with the Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces in Europe on the military re-segregation of Greece in NATO.

Gandhi triumph seen as popular recognition of true leadership

From Richard Wigg

Delhi, Jan 8

An attempt to find the main reasons behind Mrs Indira Gandhi's comeback with the greatest election victory of her long political career could well start at what might seem its most baffling point: the majority of more than 100,000 by which Mr Sanjay Gandhi, the Prime Minister's younger son, unseated the Janata MP of the Amethi constituency in northern India.

Mr Gandhi, whose two-year fall sentenced for conspiring to destroy the master copy of a film satirising his mother's emergency rule is still technically on appeal, was contemptuously rejected by the voters in March, 1977, when he had the campaign resources of a government behind him.

This time his campaign was well staffed from Delhi but not on the previous scale. He remains an unattractive public speaker and as he tramped through the villages he told Mrs Gandhi: "I only punish once." In his apologies for the compulsory sterilisation programme he put the blame on officials, not himself.

The 1977 election result was evidently a negative vote and so many have been this time for many in Amethi. The Janata MP, like so many throughout the "cow belt" of northern India, arrogantly neglected his constituency from the day he won it.

The local constituency establishment had no reason for not swinging back to the pro-congress voting pattern it had followed since 1952 in this backward part of the home state of the Nehru family. That was why the seat was originally selected for Mr Gandhi.

The Janata party in the north of India was seen by the voters as an urban party, backed chiefly by traders and

money lenders, often of the Bania caste never popular with the poor ordinary people.

Behind them were the unstable Janata state governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana riven by petty rivalries and caste divisions. That was the ordinary peoples' daily reality far away from the Olympian Mr Morarji Desai in Delhi.

Mrs Gandhi must thus be given full marks for her principal election slogans—law and order and rising prices—but they do not provide a full explanation for her success.

The governments of Mr Desai and Mr Charan Singh, neither took any serious actions to curb the price rises nor did they attempt to educate the public about their causes during the long election campaign. The two wings of the former Janata party paid dearly for that contempt of the voters.

But now Mrs Gandhi inherits a naive belief that she can somehow solve the ordinary man's economic headaches.

Today Mrs Gandhi's residence, where crowds of people of all classes continued to pay their respects, Mrs Gandhi sounded a warning as she addressed a group of her supporters from Funt.

"The country's economy is very grim, that's how they left it," she said, "I shall need the same help from you to solve these problems as you gave me to win the elections." A roar of cheering faithful support went up.

Mrs Gandhi's triumph happily punctured the overblown reputation of Mr Jagjivan Ram, the Janata leader, and ordinary voters must be enjoying that a skilled operator in the Delhi caucus rooms for decades, this time he neither proved a national leader, nor of his fellow Harijans (formerly untouchables). As for his attempt to secure a share of

the Muslim vote against Mrs Gandhi, the Muslim leader he selected as his mouthpiece actually lost his own deposit.

Caste did not play so big a role as expected. But Mrs Gandhi's candidates were selected, as usual, with caste in mind and Mr Charan Singh's relatively better performance confirms that it was a factor.

In the south, with no Janata, the vote was relatively less complicated than in the more populous north. But again the stardom of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the Tamil regional party, which had only one seat in the outgoing Lower House, was 16 in the new one, shows Mrs Gandhi's life giving touch.

Mrs Gandhi faces a formidable task if she wishes to live up to the great expectations she had whipped up in the campaign among ordinary voters. But in the last analysis she had whipped up in the campaign among ordinary voters was a desire to live up to the great expectations she had whipped up in the campaign among ordinary voters.

Our Calcutta Correspondent writes: West Bengal is the only state where Mrs Gandhi's Congress has failed in this election. Although full returns from West Bengal will not be available until tomorrow, the count so far shows that the ruling Left Front, led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) will win more than 90 per cent of the state's 42 seats in Parliament.

The Marxist communists, who claim to be independent of both Peking and Moscow, alone are poised to win 70 per cent of West Bengal seats. But this is a source of little comfort to the Marxists who fear that Mrs Gandhi's Government in Delhi may find some pretexts to remove them out of power in this state.

Joy Adamson's ashes to be strewn in Kenya

From Charles Harrison

Nairobi, Jan 8

Mrs Joy Adamson, the naturalist, author and artist who was murdered last week at her remote safari camp in the Shaba Game Reserve, was cremated here today.

She had left instructions in her will for her ashes to be scattered over the plains where she and her husband George raised the orphaned lioness cub, Elsa, more than 20 years ago. Born Free, the story of Elsa and later books and films, made Mrs Adamson known throughout the world.

About 50 mourners attended the funeral service in an open-walled chapel only yards from the Nairobi National Park. The Kenya Government was represented by Mr Daniel Sindiga, the Director of Wildlife. Herr Ernst Hisinger, the Austrian Ambassador, was among the mourners.

Kenyan police have not yet announced a formal charge of murder in connexion with her death.

US to sell satellite ground station to Chinese

From Fox Butterfield

Peking, Jan 8

Mr Harold Brown, the American Defence Secretary, announced today that the United States was now prepared to sell China a ground station capable of receiving information from an Earth resources satellite (Landsat), with possible military applications.

The ground station has computers and taping equipment with more advanced technology than anything the United States has sold to the Soviet Union, a Defence Department official said.

China originally made a request for the Landsat ground station over a year ago, the official added, but because of its potential military use an extensive debate had been conducted by the Carter Administration before deciding to make it available to Peking.

Mr Brown's announcement was made after he met Mr Deng Xiaoping, the senior Deputy Prime Minister, for over two hours in the Great Hall of the People this morning.

Mr Deng told the Defence Secretary, who is on an eight-day tour of China, that China and the United States should do something in a down-to-earth way so as to defend world peace against Soviet hegemonism.

But it was not clear whether the two nations will reach any concrete agreement on how to counter the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, or on ways to coordinate military aid to Pakistan, before Mr Brown concludes his talks in Peking tomorrow.

An American official said China would not be able to use the satellite itself for military purposes, since the United States controls the programming of the information that will be fed to the Chinese ground station.

Last January, when Mr Deng was in Washington, an agreement between China and the United States was reached to provide Peking with a civilian communications satellite.

Twenty other countries have already purchased ground stations.—New York Times News Service.

OVERSEAS

Phnom Penh accused of delaying food aid

Bangkok, Jan 8.—Mr Victor Palmieri, the new United States coordinator for refugee affairs, today accused the Phnom Penh authorities of "failure to make any significant progress" in the distribution of international aid in Kampuchea and gave warning of a possible insistence on change in the distribution process.

He said he was "not interested" in differentiating between incompetence or willful obstruction.

"The fact is food is not being distributed," he said. "Further delay in the distribution of relief supplies by the world community is inexcusable. Ample supplies of food and trucks are now available within Kampuchea."

Mr Palmieri said that international officials had confirmed that supplies sent into Phnom Penh remained in warehouses. "Every pressure" would be applied to relieve the hunger situation.

He confirmed that America would increase its intake of Indochinese refugees from Thailand to 10,000 a month as from this month.—Agence France-Press.

Israel Government challenged by Mr Dayan over move to keep settlement in Nablus area

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Jan 8

Mr Moshe Dayan today launched a move in Parliament calculated to torpedo the Government's decision to re-deploy the outlaws Gush Emunim settlement of Elon Moreh elsewhere in the Nablus area.

The Government has allocated land said to be public domain east of Nablus for the 110 settlers who must leave their present site south of Nablus because the Israel High Court ruled that the land had been unlawfully expropriated from private landowners.

In the first Opposition move he initiated since he resigned from the Government, Mr Dayan today obtained House committee recognition for the urgency of a motion to debate the Cabinet decision to re-establish Elon Moreh at the new site. The committee reversed a decision by the Speaker and the House president and Mr Dayan will have the floor early next week.

At the committee meeting today, he explained that he favoured Jewish settlement in the West Bank for defence

purposes and in dense groups, but there was no justification from the defence point of view for an isolated settlement on the outskirts of Nablus.

The issue is touchy for Mr Menachem Begin's Government since a substantial section of his coalition opposes Gush Emunim in general and Elon Moreh in particular. However, the danger to the Government is not immediate since the vote next week will be on whether to hold a full dress debate at a future date, to refer the issue to a parliamentary committee or to refuse to discuss it altogether.

The Government may back a motion to refer the matter to committee to avoid risking a defeat. Several coalition doves in the House committee voted with the Opposition today to give Mr Dayan the floor.

The deadline set by the Government for the transfer of Elon Moreh is on or about February 3. Arabs claiming title to the present site obtained an order from the High Court in Jerusalem today giving the Government 10 days to explain why the land should not be evacuated.

Mr Elias Khoury, their coun-

sel, said the Government had demonstrated it was vulnerable to Gush Emunim pressures and he feared the present deadline would not be met. The Government had already postponed the move twice after Gush Emunim balked at the transfer.

Originally the state had seized 150 acres south of Nablus for the settlement. On October 22, a group of Arabs owning more than 31 acres won a High Court case against the requisition on the grounds it had not been a security necessity.

The land was returned within the 30 days prescribed in the judgment. The Government said it would evacuate the rest of the land and set a deadline of four to six weeks. This expired on January 3 and the Cabinet set a new deadline.

Mr Tamir, the Minister of Justice and Professor Zamir, the Attorney General had opposed the postponement of the evacuation and urged the Cabinet that the settlers were now trespassers and that it would be difficult to defend legal action by the Arab landowners.

Marcos opponent offers compromise

Manila, Jan 8.—Mr Benigno Aquino, the most prominent detainee in the Philippines, said today he had offered President Ferdinand Marcos a compromise to ease the country away from martial law and secure his own release.

The proposal involves establishing an advisory council of political, religious, literary and other leaders—especially members of the opposition—and freeing the press from restraint.

The plan does not advocate the opposition joining President Marcos's administration, but it appears to offer the first possibility of conciliation between the President and Mr Aquino, a former senator, after more than seven years of martial law.

It comes at a time of increasing speculation about President Marcos's health, despite his assurances that there is nothing seriously wrong with him.

In a telephone interview from his home, where he is under house arrest, Mr Aquino, aged 47, described the proposed council as "a sort of grand ombudsman" to ease a transition of power to a new, democratic government.

The proposal presumes President Marcos would step down at the end of the transition period, which Mr Aquino said could be three years or longer.

President Marcos said in an interview published in *The Bangkok Post* today that he was seeking an urgent meeting with Lord Todd, President of the Royal Society, and other distinguished British scientists before they attend an international scientific conference in Hamburg next month under the Helsinki Agreement.

His aim is to persuade the British delegation to raise the case of Dr Yuri Orlov, a prominent Soviet physicist serving a labour camp sentence of seven years for his activities in monitoring Soviet observance of the Helsinki accords. If they cannot get satisfactory answers to their questions, he said, the British delegation should walk out.

He also called for a boycott of the Olympic Games and the breaking-off of all scholarly and scientific exchanges unless certain questions are met.

Mr Ginzburg is on his first visit to Britain since his own release from a Soviet labour camp last April when he was unexpectedly flown to New York with four other Soviet political prisoners, in exchange for two Soviet spies.

He was introduced by Mr John Macdonald, QC, who two years ago was retained by Dr Orlov's wife to act as defence counsel in her husband's case. Mr Macdonald was refused a visa to attend the trial, but



Muhammad Ali with President Carter at the White House where he announced the formation of Athletes for Carter to help in the President's re-election.

Scientists to be asked to raise Dr Orlov's case

From a Correspondent

Mr Alexander Ginzburg, the Soviet dissident, announced in London yesterday that he is seeking an urgent meeting with Lord Todd, President of the Royal Society, and other distinguished British scientists before they attend an international scientific conference in Hamburg next month under the Helsinki Agreement.

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later helped Mrs Orlov with her appeal.

Mr Macdonald explained that the conference, scheduled for February 18-21, is the first such international gathering of scientists to be held as a direct result of the Helsinki Agreement. "But," he said, "there is one distinguished physicist who won't be there—Yuri Orlov."

Dr Orlov was the most important scientist to be jailed in the Soviet Union since the time of Stalin, and the single greatest assurance the Soviet Union could make to forward the spirit of Helsinki was to release him.

Unless British and other Western scientists were able to meet the colleagues of their choice, and discuss questions of their choice, these conferences were a sham, Mr Macdonald said. Mr Ginzburg was not, however, advocating a boycott.

The British delegation, led by Lord Todd and including such distinguished figures as Sir William Henderson, president of the Genetic Engineering Advisory Group, and Sir William Haworth, Master of Churchill College, Cambridge, could play a more positive and beneficial role by attending the conference and asking questions about Dr Orlov.

If they did this and received a satisfactory response from their Soviet colleagues, it could be the first step towards establishing a proper basis for true cultural and scientific exchange.

Drug theory in kidnap of Britons

The British Embassy in Bogota is investigating the possibility that two Britons kidnapped from their ranch in Colombia last weekend may have been abducted by a marijuana syndicate linked to the Mafia.

Colombian military sources said on Monday that Mrs Teleri Jones, aged 43, and her son, Owen, aged 16, were abducted by members of the left-wing National Liberation Army who were asking "a large ransom" for their return.

Mrs Jones is the daughter of the late Mr Hywell Hughes, an Anglesey millionaire.

The ransom demand is put at about \$450,000 (£200,000), a figure regarded as relatively modest, supporting the view that the kidnapping may be the work of a marijuana syndicate.

Ranchers in the Chiriguana district, where Mrs Jones and her husband Cyril, aged 45, farm thousands of acres, are said to have been under increasing pressure to allow some of their land to be used for growing cannabis.

Friends and relatives of the Jones family believe they would have no difficulty in raising the ransom being demanded. But they fear that Mrs Jones's fiery nature could upset her kidnappers.

Enthusiasm for self-sufficiency returns to population of island camps

Vietnam refugees regain hope in Indonesia

From David Watts,
Galang Island, Indonesia

The rainy season clouds blowing in from the north over Indonesia's largest camp for refugees from Vietnam are portents not just of the regular afternoon downpour but of the new stream of refugees who the authorities fear may start their perilous voyages again soon.

The critical period will come when the weather in the South China Sea begins to improve at the end of the winter. Not only will the sea be calm enough once again for their frail boats but all the indications are that economic conditions in Vietnam will be so much worse by that time that many more families will decide to risk the journey. It is a prospect that Admiral Wibisono, commander of the northern Indonesian naval region which encompasses the Galang Island camp, does not relish. But at least this time he, and the international community, will not be taken by surprise.

And the main camp site on the island provides some striking examples of what the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has achieved in the relief of the

Vietnamese refugee problem, and some insights into the economic and social effects of the arrival of a large number of foreigners, displaced from their own country, on an isolated and underdeveloped area.

The main flood of refugees was launched after the July conference in Geneva and the Indonesian authorities began processing them through Galang Island for resettlement elsewhere.

Most of the refugees had made landfall in the Anambas Islands off the Malaysian coast, now these islands are being gradually cleared of the uninvited inhabitants. At Galang, one and a half hours by boat from Singapore, they are put on to two sites. A third site will be available for any new arrivals.

In the early months the Galang Island camp was a depressed place. As so often happened the refugees arrived in poor condition and with little hope.

Some people might prefer the term displaced persons because, despite their ill-health when they arrive, most of the inmates do not suffer deprivation.

Money comes in, from relatives and friends already resettled, to the tune of £50,000 a week according to Admiral Wibisono, and allowances for each refugee are greater than those paid to needy Indonesian families outside the camp.

Most of the refugees out of the camp's population of about 13,000 are Chinese. There are smaller numbers of Kampuchean and ethnic Vietnamese.

The policy of the UNHCR is to make them as self-supporting as possible. They scarcely need any encouragement. In fact, so enthusiastic were the Chinese for self-sufficiency that at one point they had almost taken over the local market.

Encouraged by a brisk resettlement rate of about 1,000 people a month, the atmosphere of the camp quickly recovered from the initial gloom.

The refugees have set up their own security system. The camp commander is assisted by two UNHCR officers and has 40 security men and police at his disposal.

Crimes of violence are few. The most serious was when a woman took a dislike to the marriage plans of her niece and

broke a piece of board over her head.

Few refugee camps can have had such a high standard of education and skill among its inmates. At one point during the autumn Galang had 21 doctors, 14 nurses and dentists, engineers and architects, not to mention a guitarist from the Saigon Conservatory of Music.

Not surprisingly the accent is now on acquiring language skills ready for resettlement and there are 145 teachers teaching 6,000 students languages and vocational skills. English is the first choice.

The camp itself provides an example of what a "business" the Vietnamese refugees have become, for both sides. Local contractors demanded 10 times the normal price for materials during the building of the camp and local landlords charge rents for UNHCR staff that would not seem outrageous in London. One United Nations staff man was asked nearly £230 a month rent for a single room.

The camp itself was built in Indonesia because of the exorbitant prices being asked for a refugee resettlement camp elsewhere in Asia.

Appointments Vacant also on page 7

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On the retirement of the present Town Clerk and Chief Executive (22nd May 1980), his duties are to be assigned to two separate key posts of Chief Executive, and Director of Law and Administration. The Council now wish to appoint the

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Further information concerning this post can be obtained from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, (Tel. no. 01-903 1400 extension 8289). Applications, which must be returned to the same address by 4th February, 1980, should include a CV and an indication as to what positive contribution the applicant could offer to Brent.

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School books: a lack of quality as well as quantity

"A SPLENDID NEW THRILLER
FROM SIMON GRAY" The Time
"A COMEDY-THRILLER BOTH
AND THRILLING" P. Time

The private pocket, not the public purse, is the best defence against runaway inflation

An open memorandum to Mrs Thatcher and Mr Callaghan on the economic choices facing Britain today: growth through greater freedom or collectivist control and decline

Monetarism is the internationally recognized technique for trying to achieve what everyone wants—the end of inflation. It is not a nostrum of cranks. Only by mastering inflation can we hope to improve our economic performance and prospects for employment.

Despite inheriting a lax monetary and fiscal policy, the Government can still phase out inflation over the next four years by squeezing the excess money and credit out of the economy until its increase is within the improvement in output, and thus finally ending the expectation that inflation will continue. Monetary discipline works essentially through the market process by preventing employers from passing on to customers inflated wage (and other payments) not earned by increases in salable output. So long as the supply of money is not expanded to enable customers to pay higher prices, "unearned" pay increases cause unemployment rather than inflation.

Monetary discipline cannot by itself remove the unemployment produced by unearned pay which bumps up against this ceiling in prices, nor the inefficiency of labour or employer monopolies that extort unearned incomes.

Looser money would not reduce this waste of resources but merely intensify inflation: tighter money will reduce inflation but not reduce the unemployment caused by unearned incomes. Thus, only policies that claw out the supply side of the economy, by breaking down the monopolistic obstructions, can reduce the unemployment and other wastes of resources.

Unemployment will inevitably continue until expectations are adapted to declining inflation. This painful period will be relatively brief, if the market is working efficiently, so that monetary discipline is able to have a rapid and direct effect on prices and

wages. But it will last much longer if rigidities are allowed to obstruct the effects of tight money.

The less responsive employers, workers or consumers, whether public or private, are to tight money, the more deeply it must bite elsewhere. If cost-consciousness is not generalized, as it would be in a market economy where tighter money percolates into every crevice of the economy, the receding tide of monetary demand will leave more enterprising like stranded whales on the beach.

Monetary policy works most smoothly with least dislocation where the economy is flexible and fluid, and where its purpose and effects are understood. There are three obstructions to the monetary power of trade unions in the market process. In 1974 Mr. Healey, in combating the delayed backwash of the Heath-Barber inflation, began with an orthodox monetary squeeze but accompanied it with an ineffective incomes policy purchased by debilitating concessions to the trade unions. The result was to intensify union power to disrupt progress towards lower inflation, while providing a pretext for relaxing monetary discipline towards the end of 1977.

The failure to establish a "special relationship" with the unions, and to win continued union acceptance for an "incomes policy" in 1978, confirmed years of the well-documented futility of such short-lived expedients. They may have earned incomes for a year or two, but in a breach which sweeps wage demands higher and leaves government with the intractable problem of monetary restraints or letting unemployment soar.

Even in the short period when "incomes policy" held, it prohibited adjustment to diverging supply and demand in competing occupations and industries. The resulting per-

fected pattern of wages and differentials was not merely "unjust" to people with scarce skills but without monopoly power, whose pay was depressed in the name of "fairness". Even worse for the health of the economy and for productivity, it distorted the distribution of labour, with overmanning where demand was falling and unfilled vacancies where demand was growing, not least in some export trades, visible and invisible.

The present Government appears at last to have learned the lesson that the price of labour influences the demand for it. In place of the chimera of "incomes policy" it offers the reality of wage bargaining conditioned only by what the consumer will pay in the market. By refusing to print money to underwrite unearned incomes, it has served notice that demands for unearned income will cause unemployment rather than prolong inflation.

The failure to establish a "special relationship" with the unions, and to win continued union acceptance for an "incomes policy" in 1978, confirmed years of the well-documented futility of such short-lived expedients. They may have earned incomes for a year or two, but in a breach which sweeps wage demands higher and leaves government with the intractable problem of monetary restraints or letting unemployment soar.

The second obstruction to monetary policy is monopoly in the market for the products of industry. There is increasing acknowledgement that success in mastering inflation would be won at less cost if markets for goods as well as for labour were made more competitive. If Mr. Healey is right to object to monetary policy which induces employers to raise prices rather than reduce jobs and risk a strike that may close them down, the solution is not to abandon monetary discipline but to confront all producers with maximum competition so that they cannot raise prices.

To this end, the Government, we hope, will follow Mr. Healey in resisting the sophisticated pleas for protection against foreign imports. The Government should also be less ready to subsidize failing enterprises than it has been so far, and more alert to maintain stricter scrutiny of restrictive practices, including those imposed by trade unions, the use of labour and the suppression of machinery.

There remains the third and by far the most entrenched obstruction: monopoly in nationalized industry. Mr. Healey's objection that employers will capitulate to strong unions applies even more to government monopoly than to private industry. Judgment on the scope for early denationalization may differ, but it should be possible to remove the legal barriers against new competition in postal services, road

transport and even in electricity generating and coal (open-cast) mining—as a modest beginning. A more radical and enterprising innovation would be to experiment in worker cooperatives by offering the mines to the miners to operate in a free international market.

The most pervasive obstacle to mastering inflation is government itself as a monopoly employer in a vast range of national and local services. Government monopoly may be unavoidable in the production of "public" goods, such as defence, law and order, preventive medicine, street lighting, local roads, etc. But for most government services, which are not public goods, from education and medicine to refuse collection and libraries, the use of cash limits alone to support monetary control is clumsy, disruptive, ineffective, and lacking machinery for informed choice by ultimate consumers.

First, government "cuts" cannot be the simple ones to allow for local circumstances and individual preferences. Centralized decisions are unnecessarily damaging and insensitive. There is no reason to cut expenditure on everything by the same, or a similar, proportion. A free economy must be able to provide for advance in some directions even where there is general retreat. Economists would mostly agree that, since individual citizens know their preferences and circumstances best, varying

rates of retrenchment and selective expansion will create more rational choice between competing uses of scarce resources.

Second, short of empowering Whitehall to decide and dictate detailed local cuts, cash limits are in practice enforced by the local councillors and officials who inflated expenditure in the first place. Unless they are selfless saints, they will not cut their own powers and jobs. They are more likely to cut (or cut out) services the public value most—and for which it may be prepared to pay rather than go without, not least in education and medicine.

It follows, thirdly, that the Government's monetary policy requiring the Budget deficit to be reduced will be condemned as the Government will expose itself to vilification if it appears to be responsible for harsh cuts in welfare and other desired services. Since political decisions on local cuts are not sufficiently informed to decide which services people value most, they must devise a way of passing these decisions to the sovereign people who know better.

The neglected method is to raise charges for personal, private and higher taxes. Whatever the case, family services, which we estimate to account for over a half of total governmental spending, it is not only "market economists" who increasingly recognize the presumption of handouts of offi-

cially controlling the form and extent of local health, education and other services, and assigning resources to each. The methods of medieval mercantilism or modern communism are unacceptable in a free society.

People know best which services they value. Most could pay charges if they were not impoverished by taxation. The poor could be financially enfranchised by selective cash subsidies by the use of a reverse income tax, and perhaps where there are children by the issue of education and health insurance vouchers. All could then confront the costs of choice and decide the cuts—or increases—for themselves and their families.

Restoring "public revenue" to the private pockets whence it came, and putting personal services on a market basis, is the third essential for easing the path of monetary policy, increasing the efficiency of the "supply side" of the economy, reducing waste in the public sector and thus restoring price stability at minimum cost. And we would extend the argument to housing, in which a free market is essential to enable the unemployed to move to areas with unfilled vacancies. Improved efficiency in the economy as a whole, private and "public", is the most desirable way of reducing the "public" sector borrowing which is necessary to cut down the growth in the supply of money.

It must have puzzled many who are not Conservative but who put their confidence in Mrs Thatcher to "roll back the state" to hear Treasury ministers talk as though the choice may be between yet more government borrowing and higher taxes. Whatever the case, family services, which we estimate to account for over a half of total governmental spending, it is not only "market economists" who increasingly recognize the presumption of handouts of offi-

less taxation (and disincentives).

We applaud the determination of the Government and the Chancellor to persevere with the monetary policy essential to end inflation. The doubt that remains is whether they contemplate deploying sufficient supporting measures to overcome the post-war legacy of rigidities, restrictions and refusals to confront economic and political reality. To enable the monetary medicine to have its restorative effect, the Government must go further—and faster—in creating conditions in which it can best work: a freer economy in which it can reach every corner and cranny.

The Chancellor rightly claims there is no effective alternative to monetary control in mastering inflation. But there is a different alternative: the open society, the increasingly regulated, protected, closed economy and society favoured by Mr. Wedgwood Benn and his protectionists. The more radical policy of freeing the economy may be uncomfortable for a time, but it is our best hope. The collectivist option of closing it further would fail, and it would be unacceptable to the British people if they knew its implications for living standards, individual liberty, consumer choice, cooperation with our friends overseas and international concord.

We have little doubt that many more of liberal temper would share our conviction that these are the realistic alternatives between which both Conservative and Labour parties have to choose.

G. C. Allen Victor Morgan
Paul Barreau Alan Peacock
Sidney Caine Ivor Pearce
William Clarke Gordon Pepper
Stanley Denison Harold Rose
Brian Griffiths Arthur Seldon
Ralph Harris Jack Wiseman
Graham Hutton Geoffrey Wood
William Letwin J. B. Wood
Patrick Minford Basil Yamey

Bernard Levin

Ratting on their responsibilities

A tail much smaller than a hundred now wags a dog of some two and a half thousand

I read once of a scientific experiment in which three rats were placed together in a cage, with a steady supply of drinking-water, and a chute down which a pellet of food rolled when, and only when, a lever beside it was pressed. The rats discovered the lever and—more important—its connexion with the supply of food, and from then on, whenever one of them wanted a meal, it simply pressed the lever, collected the food at the bottom of the chute, and ate it.

The scientists in charge then varied the conditions. The chute and the lever were separated by a barrier; the result was that the hungry rat had to go round behind the barrier to press the familiar lever, but the food rolled down the chute on the other side, and was seized by another of the rats.

This, it seems, broke the connexion between cause and effect in the minds of the rats: pressing the lever brought the presser no food, and there was no point in pressing it. All three therefore gave up doing so, and shortly afterwards began to starve.

At this point, one of the rats had a brainwave. It went round to the lever, pressed it three times, and dipped back to the other side. Three pellets of food had rolled down the chute; each of the other rats had seized one pellet; a third pellet remained; and Archimedes, murmuring the ratcatcher's "Eureka", feasted upon it.

Mark now the sequel. Neither of the other two rats ever learnt the three-pellet trick: from then on, the originator of it always had to provide the daily bread for himself, them, Ladies and gentlemen, that rat am I, and if you think I speak in jest, or even with a light heart, you err most grievously.

Some four years ago, seeing my branch (the London Freelanders) of my trade union (the National Union of Journalists) sliding inexorably into the grip of a tiny and ludicrously unrepresentative band of Trotskyite fanatics, I determined, at first together with only one col-

league, to do something about it. Since we knew nobody else in the branch, the only way in which we could recruit fellow-members for a rescue operation was to watch, at the monthly branch meetings, for others whose votes on political motions suggested that they were as opposed to the extremists as we were, tap them on the shoulder and invite them to join our band. Each such recruit was urged to spot and approach others, and soon the thing began to grow, until we thought we had enough for a push.

At first, we were diffident; we did not know that the Trotskyists had long had a "whip" for crucial meetings and planned their campaigns in branch and other union elections so that they concentrated their voting power on agreed candidates, and we relied on hasty and ill-organized word of mouth. Even so, our first assault on the branch committee proved remarkably successful, and once we had established a beach-head, and built up our list of moderates, we applied the Liddell Hart principle of the "expanding torrent". At the second annual branch elections after we started the operation, we swept the board, capturing every one of the branch officers' posts and every seat on the committee.

Now the point is that this was not difficult; it needed only organization. For the branch contains some 2,500 members; it is well known that the Marxist activists put their full strength in elections, and turn out in similarly comprehensive numbers for important meetings, yet they have never received in our branch on any motion, or for any candidate, when the vote or election divided strictly along extremist-moderate lines, is

roughly 60. There are not, there cannot be, more than about 80 in the entire branch. This is not surprising, of course; Trotskyist and CP movements in Britain as a whole (incidentally the two combine happily in our affairs, belying the spurious claims made by Trotskyite groups to oppose the CP and its subversion to the Soviet Union) are a tiny fraction of a fragment of the NUJ, and so they are in the NUJ in general and the London Freelanders Branch in particular.

And yet a tail much smaller than a hundred now wags a dog

of some two and a half thousand, whence my feeling of kinship with the third rat in the experiment. For the moderates, accustomed to getting my unofficial bulletin urging them to attend particularly vital meetings, stopped coming entirely in months when I didn't send such an appeal (I dared not send one every month, knowing that our supporters' willingness to do anything at all was slighted if they would not respond except to appeals couched in tones of the greatest urgency, and would respond even then in pitiful, and diminishing, numbers); 1, and the other few stalwarts, seeing that we laboured in vain, gradually ceased to be willing to stand for office; the extremists, who not long ago had been utterly routed in every serious clash, took heart; and the upshot is that, next Monday, at our annual general meeting in the Conway Hall, the second of which they will take complete control of the branch (thus, incidentally, coming substantially closer to their aim of taking control of the union, for our branch is the third largest, after Central London and Magazine, the second of which they already control). The reason is that only two moderate members of the branch can be per-

The man to vote for

A call to moderate London Freelanders members. Something can still be saved from the wreckage if you will only turn up at Monday's meeting (Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC2 at 5.45 pm AND STAY TO THE END. While there, vote for TERENCE KELLY for chairman (the only contested post). On the crucial standing orders amendments vote FOR all the amendments in the Conway Hall, the second of which they will take complete control of the branch (thus, incidentally, coming substantially closer to their aim of taking control of the union, for our branch is the third largest, after Central London and Magazine, the second of which they already control). The reason is that only two moderate members of the branch can be per-

In addition, you will shortly be getting two printed postal ballots. In the election for NEC member please vote for TONY CRAIG. In the election for the Freelanders Industrial Council, please vote (NB, by NUMBERS, not CROSSES) for: 1. Craig, 2. Terence (NOT Philip) Kelly, 3. Fraser, 4. Curtis, 5. Bolt.

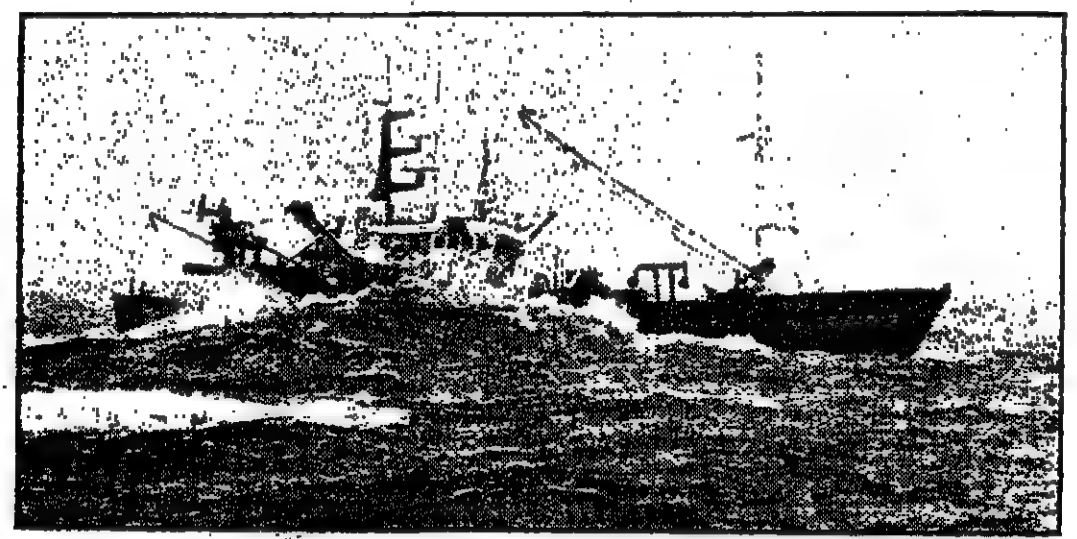
sued to stand for office at all, so that all the other posts will go, unopposed, to the Trotskyists, CP and their fellow-travellers.

This has all been achieved, I must stress, without ballot-rigging or any similar irregularity. True, the other standard extremist techniques have been used; interminable political harangues by the fanatics, making meetings unbearable, constant abuse of those who stand in their way, and so on. But the individual moderates (one of their lies, assiduously peddled, is that the cost of my own union activities—such as sending out the moderates' bulletin—is met by *The Times*). But in the end it was because they are willing to work for the totalitarian cause in which they believe, and we are not willing to match their efforts in the interests of our own democratic cause.

Instead, the rats have left it to me and the very small group that were willing to spend time and effort to ensure that the third largest section of a union that is, after all, concerned with freedom of speech, should be taken into the hands of those who are willing to destroy it. (To destroy free speech means, though as a matter of fact they will destroy the union, too, when they gain complete control.) And in the end, as the extremists have calculated, we few decided that we have better things to do than bang our heads on the brick wall of laziness and indifference (just let me catch one of our moderate MP members arguing moderation in the steel union to speak and organize for moderation, that's all) with which we are confronted.

I am sick of quoting Yeats on the best lacking all conviction and the worst being full of passionate intensity: come to that, I am sick of quoting Burke on the same subject, but I shall do so once more. When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall, one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle. Quite.

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A trawler in heavy seas: "there are some conditions no vessel can withstand."

Are trawler skippers under too much strain?

"Until you have been there on the winter sea south-east of Shetland, it is impossible to understand how severe are the conditions that fishermen face." So said Mr. James Murray, former skipper of the Buckie fishing vessel *Seaford* and now chairman of the North Scottish Light Trawler Fishermen's Association, the organization that draws together the vessels which in recent months have proved tragically vulnerable.

In the search for a reason why 12 Murray fish boats have gone down in the past 10 months, and more urgently why three Buckie boats and 16 lives have been lost in three months, Mr. Murray was confident that a single cause for all the disasters would not be found. But people understanding the power of the sea, he said.

An architect at a drawing board designing vessels, or a civil servant drawing up safety rules, could not really understand. "If they did, they would know there were no conditions no vessel can withstand and no safety rules can eliminate. Perhaps they should get closer to the fishermen," he declared.

The latest casualty, the *Bounceous*, was fishing off Land's End, with another *Bounceous* boat. The weather was brisk but not bad when the *Bounceous*—launched less than two years ago—suddenly overturned. Three men died, trapped on board and three

others were rescued. The *Bounceous* was pulling her net with a haul of herring when she overturned, and the inquiry into her loss, which has already begun, is likely to consider the possibility that the cable between trawler and net snagged on the seabed. It will also ask how heavy the gear was and how the fish already caught had been loaded.

Some 700 fishermen operate boats registered in Buckie and the town has three boat-building yards. Last year the area's Buckie fleet underwent a Board of Trade survey and thousands of pounds were spent on bringing the boats up to highest safety standards.

The vessels were in fine order, but one question was asked: whether the men sailing them were not under too great a strain. The skippers of all three boats lost in recent months were young men and were relatively new to the pressure of having to service huge over-

seas political and conservationist forces make fish ever more difficult to catch, so the temptation to go beyond the safe limit increases.

Leaders of the fishing industry are convinced that this economic pressure is forcing skippers to take risks. Depending on the length of a boat, it costs about £1,200 a day to meet running costs, wages and repayment of loans.

Small boats are going into areas where they should never be and where there is no cover for them if conditions become too severe. "They are fishing with heavy nets that increase the size of the catch but are potentially lethal," I was told.

The Government has insisted there will be no moratorium on repayments, which leaves the industry in a critical position.

The way in which a large fleet can suddenly contract under political and economic pressures has already been demonstrated in Aberdeen. Five years ago, 115 deepwater vessels put to sea from the port: this year the figure is a little over 40. The rest have been scrapped, tied up or employed on safety patrols round North Sea oil platforms apart from the few that have survived the loss of individual boats. What is feared is the loss of an entire industry.

Ronald Faux

MOSCOW DIARY

A quiet revival for the Russian church

It was a perfect Christmas Eve picture: the moon glistening on the fresh snow, the decorated wooden houses looking warm and bright in the freezing night, worshippers streaming out of the white-washed church as the bells rang out the Christmas message.

But the scene is the heart of ancient Russia and the day is January 6, and Soviet Christians are celebrating the Russian Orthodox Christmas. The Russian church never changed the calendar after the revolution at the rest of the country did. Christmas day therefore falls on December 25, Old Style, and believers packed the churches three days ago for the long late night services.

Suzdal, 160 miles east of Moscow, is one of the most beautiful old Russian settlements. Now a sleepy market town of only 15,000 people, it was briefly and gloriously the capital of ancient Russia before the rise of Muscovy, and its

thirteenth century splendour is still seen in some of the 50 churches that cluster round the old market place, the monastery and the ancient Kremlin fortress.

As a parish Suzdal now falls under the sway of its long-time rival Vladimir, a large industrial town some 20 miles away. But until 1929 Suzdal had its own Bishop and before the revolution its onion-domed churches were thronged with worshippers. Now Suzdal, a thriving tourist centre, is mainly a museum town in the diocese of Vladimir.

For the Russian Orthodox Church Christmas does not hold the same significance as Easter. But there were still plenty of worshippers this Christmas in the square church with its five traditional domed spires, one of two churches recently restored and open for services.

Most people were elderly women who chanted the Christmas service in quavering voices. But among the congregation of over 200 were several men and younger people. Father Valentin, a large, warm-hearted man with a friendly smile, is clearly a popular parish priest. He personally supervised the reconstruction and reopening

three years ago of the two working churches—one used mainly in summer, the other in winter, the transfer of icons and other valuables from the smaller disused church on the market square that had been closed, the installation of central heating and the carving of church furniture by master craftsmen.

The Russian Orthodox Church is enjoying a quiet revival in the Soviet Union. Though a few dissident priests attract the attention of the West and embarrass the church leadership, most priests are loyal servants of a conservative church that has worked out a modus vivendi with the officially atheistic state.

More and more Russians look to the church as the fount of Russian history and culture. More and more the state pays unpublicised respect to an institution that survived the upheavals of the revolution, the pre-revolutionary enmity of Khrushchev, whose rule was a renewed time of difficulty. The church in turn, though patiently and forcefully silent in the face of atheistic propaganda, has demonstrated its institutional loyalty to the Soviet

state again and again. Loyalty to the ruling temporal powers after all is nothing new in church history. It has now achieved a certain respected place in Soviet society, something it has not enjoyed since the revolution.

On Christmas morning the congregation that thronged the new, restored twelfth century cathedral in Vladimir—the oldest working church in the country, containing the priceless paintings of Andrei Rublev, the icon master whose works celebrate the victory over the Tartars—heard the Christmas message of Patriarch Pimen calling on all believers to pray for detente and to struggle against the spread of nuclear missiles in Europe.

The church has played a visible role in the Soviet opposition to Mr. Gorbachev's plans to deploy new missiles in Europe, and last month the Patriarch made a rare public appearance on Soviet television. Nowadays there are no hootings to jeer at worshippers, and village congregations go in and out of the evening and morning services with no official hindrance. For most Russians nowadays

But don't you see, if you get us checked out we can't then walk out....



the secular feast on New Year's Day is the big family occasion that has taken on all the trappings of the commercial Western Christmas. January 7, like

December 25, New Style, is a normal working day.

It was never a Christmas tradition in Russia to exchange gifts. Instead, grandchildren sang carols to their grandparents, groups of girls on Christmas Eve and boys in the early Christmas morning.

Priests and godparents were given a traditional dish of wheat and rice and nuts and a jug of home-brewed mead. Father Valentin still serves the same to his Christmas guests.

For the priests and observant believers Christmas marks the end of a 40 day fast, when the Orthodox are forbidden to eat fats, meat or eggs. Fasting is also obligatory before Easter and Assumption, but in modern Soviet society there are few apart from the clergy who are able to observe the ancient dietary rules, which themselves may be discussed at some future pan-Orthodox conference.

In Suzdal there are also monuments to more strictly enforced fasts. An old monastery, disbanded in 1918 was used for many years until 1905 as a prison for dissident clergy. Some were shut in the

tiny cells, now part of a museum, for over 40 years, and the Father Superior had the double task of head warden as well as leader of the monastery. The last notable prisoner in the fortress where Peter the Great imprisoned his first wife was Paulus who was held there for a while after his defeat at Stalingrad.

The convents, monasteries and churches are prime attractions for the tourists. Russian and foreign, who now come by the busload to Suzdal all the year round.

A new hotel complex, where prices for foreigners have just risen by 100 per cent to a night for a double room, was full of Russian on guided group tours of their cultural heritage. Though glittery Christmas trees remain from the New Year, few if any of the hotel guests took any notice of the Orthodox Christmas.

Suzdal and Vladimir form part of the "golden ring" of ancient towns all around Moscow, and are regarded by Russians as the birthplace of Russian culture and feeling.

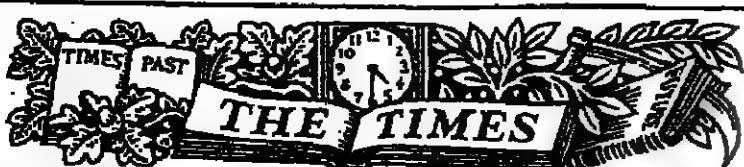
Though lying in rich farming country, the towns have lost their former economic importance, and, some Russians say, have suffered from the general decline since the revolution of the heartland of old Russia by comparison with the better-off outlying provinces.

Restoration of the old city centres is now in full swing, however, and some of the 17 monasteries once active in Suzdal were left in a poor state of repair after being used for years as army barracks.

Suzdal, though not a large parish, is the centre of many outlying villages which cannot afford a church, and appears to have no difficulty in keeping its two churches in immaculate condition. Father Valentin is proud of his ancient parish. He tells his congregation what Christmas should mean to believers and to those looking for God in their hearts. And the believers, making their way home along the snow-covered paths, seem as much part of eternal Russia as the building bright with candles that they have left.

Michael Binyon

مكتبة الأصيل



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE ARC OF CRISIS

Lord Carrington leaves London today on a rapid tour of West and South Asia which will take him to Turkey, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and India. This has been arranged at very short notice in the wake of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, and is explicitly intended as a response to it. Visits to Saudi Arabia and Oman had been planned for next month. They have been brought forward, and the other countries added to the itinerary, in order to emphasise British concern about the implications of the Afghan crisis for neighbouring states and to enable the Foreign Secretary to hear at first hand the feelings and responses of their governments.

At least four of the five states he is visiting see themselves as implicitly threatened by Russia's southward thrust. Turkey, like Afghanistan, shares a frontier with the Soviet Union and in the past few years has become uncomfortably dependent on Soviet economic aid and cooperation. Unlike Afghanistan she is a member of Nato and a democracy, if an increasingly fragile one. She has not sent her army officers to Moscow for training. The general outlook of the armed forces is fiercely nationalist and on the whole pro-western, even though old friendships were strained by the American arms embargo after Turkey's invasion of Cyprus in 1974.

To some Turks in recent years the relevance of Nato had been obscured by détente on the one hand and disputes with Greece on the other. What has happened in Afghanistan should help them to sort out their priorities. They are looking to the West for both economic and military aid, and with increasing urgency as their internal situation deteriorates. Britain is not in a position to offer much financially, but can use her influence with other Nato powers. When offering

to do so, Lord Carrington should point out that Turkey would make things much easier if she took more account of her Nato partners' views, both on the Cyprus problem and on the reintegration of Greece into the military organization.

In Riyadh and Muscat Lord Carrington will be much further from the Soviet front line but will find his interlocutors hardly less anxious. They feel threatened in their rear by the Soviet presence in South Yemen and Ethiopia, and in a more diffuse way by the general instability of the area following the Iranian revolution. The Sultan's regime in Oman exhibits some of the defects of the Shah's in Iran, with the difference that the most conspicuous foreign presence there is British rather than American; and he has the awesome responsibility of guarding the Straits of Hormuz. He is certainly entitled to expect assurances of continued British support, including military support in the event of any direct external aggression. What is more difficult to give him, but no less necessary, is advice on how to manage his affairs so as to avert the reappearance of serious internal opposition, whether Marxist, nationalist or Islamic.

The Saudi royal house is better able to look after itself, but events in Mecca six weeks ago, combined with the unrelated Shiite disturbances in the eastern province, have shown up some alarming cracks in its armour. Ostentatious western support may be the last thing it wants or needs, but the views of its leaders must certainly be listened to with great care. Its collapse would be a disaster for the West, greater than Iran and Afghanistan put together.

Iran is of course the great gap in Lord Carrington's route. A visit there would hardly be practicable in present circumstances, and if it were would more than

likely be counterproductive. Yet Iran is in a sense the focus of the trip, for it must now be a major objective of western policy to prevent Iran from falling into the Soviet orbit. For the time being Iranians seem still obsessed with the wrong done them in the recent past by the United States. The worst they can find to say about the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan is that it weakens the struggle against US imperialism. But they do also consider it "a hostile act against the Iranian nation", and have discovered that "in order to free oneself from one Satan, one must not fall victim to another".

In such an atmosphere there is clearly no point in offering support to Iran, but a lot to be lost by sharpening the confrontation with it. The utility of United Nations sanctions against it seems, as Dr Waldheim has said, more and more doubtful. The fate of the hostages remains highly unenviable, and actual friendship with Iran clearly impossible so long as they are not released. But neither they nor the rest of us are likely to benefit if Iran is given further cause to focus its hostility on the West.

Pakistan may be the easiest stage on Lord Carrington's journey, since the regime there is now clearly well aware of the danger and ready to accept Western support in dealing with it. A much more delicate task will await him in New Delhi, where he will have to try to convince Mr Gandhi that rearmament of India rather than threaten her. That will not be easy, since she is well known to regard both her northern neighbours as by nature aggressive, while they both consider themselves to have been victims of Indian aggression in the past. Soothing words from Britain are unlikely to be enough: a positive effort by all three parties to mend their fences is required.

BY PERMISSION OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

If the Employment Bill were already law, the likely course and scope of the steel strike might be very different. It is the kind of dispute where second-picketing, which the Bill seeks to prevent, might make all the difference between success and failure. The British Steel Corporation does not have a monopoly of steel supply in this country, but it comes sufficiently close to give its employees hopes of obstructing supplies almost completely if they can persuade a relatively small number of other workers to stop handling steel. Without sympathetic action of this kind, the strike would have little chance of success, as steel is cheap and plentiful abroad, and stocks already in Britain could stave off shortages for a long time if they could be moved about freely. The steel unions sought the cooperation of the unions controlling dockers, lorry-drivers and railwaymen at an early stage, and flying pickets of steelmen have already appeared at ports, steel depots and even engineering workshops.

Under the existing law (as stated last month by the House of Lords when overruling Lord Denning) picketing and blacking of premises and products not directly involved in a labour dispute are covered by all the immunities against actions in tort enjoyed by workers acting directly against their own employers. The Bill would most cases restrict the immunities for picketing at workers at or near their own place of work (and to union officials accompanying them). Although the Government have not yet announced that similar restrictions will be made to blacking in the wake of the House of Lords judgment, consistency should oblige them to do so.

These provisions would not, of course, prevent dockers or railwaymen from deciding to block

steel supplies on their own account, or steel workers from saying publicly how helpful it would be if they did. In many instances, however, the effectiveness of an attempt to halt supplies from a particular source depends on the presence of pickets actually at the gate to plead their case (supposing that no rougher pressures are applied) to the drivers going in and out. Private steel works or stockholders faced with this kind of action would be able to seek injunctions or to sue for damages if the Bill became law. Many would be too cautious to do so, but not all.

This risk would considerably inhibit unions, always anxious to protect their funds—though it would not always deter local groups or individuals from acting without the overt encouragement of their leaders. There is need for provision in the Bill to ensure that sanctions in this area should be enforceable by fines rather than imprisonment, to minimize the drama available to would-be martyrs. In some respects, the steel unions are acting on this occasion as if these constraints already applied, calling on their members to confine picketing to BSC plants, and bringing forward the question of pay in the private steelmaking sector, which may spread the dispute without any need for secondary action.

The attempt to reinforce direct industrial action by sealing off an employer's sources of supply or outlets for sale is a long-established aspect of trade disputes in Britain, though it was only in 1976 that picketing in the full sense could be used to this end without risk of legal action. Since then, a new custom has arisen (and become, in the eyes of many trade unionists, a hallowed tradition of their movement) of applying pressure less on the employer than on the

community as a whole. Concepts of solidarity in the Labour movement already offer a sanction for this kind of progression, though in most cases the sense of common interest does not extend far, at least not in the private sector.

Where large nationalized industries are concerned, working on a partial or complete monopoly basis and backed by the economic policies (and resources) of government, the transition is a tempting one. Workers in each nationalized industry have a strong motive to feel that a dispute involving one involves them all. The alacrity of the footplate men to promise support for the steelworkers is not unconnected with the fact that they too work for a loss-making, cash-limited public enterprise disposed to claim that it cannot afford big pay rises.

The natural consequence of the present law on secondary action is that major strikes, especially in the public sector, tend to develop towards a complete stoppage of the commodity concerned. As a conscious tactic, harm is done to people with no direct interest in the issues, and the damage is spread as widely as possible through the community. In most other countries labour law provides no such easy means of extending a dispute, and the law is reflected in prevailing feelings about what is and is not legitimate. A steel strike conducted under the provisions on picketing and blacking of the Employment Bill would still, no doubt, be able to count on widespread and active sympathy from other workers, but it would not have the actual support of legal immunity in any extension of a strike against BSC into a prohibition of the movement of steel as such.

3 per cent. It is indeed true that over the past five years or so the proportion of well planned and seriously intended records has increased, at the expense of the trivia which proliferated earlier in the decade, but this is rather a return to the status quo of the sixties than a radical new departure.

Despite a "boom" in early music activity earlier in the seventies, the bulk of the available evidence suggests that this music is still very much a minority interest: BBC Radio 3 treats it as such, allocating it in 1979 only about 2 per cent of an average week's music broadcasting, and there are as yet no signs of Monteverdi, the best established "early" composer achieving the kind of general popularity enjoyed by the great composers of later periods. (In a league table based on single-composer records issued between 1967 and 1976, only three "early" composers could muster more than 10; Monteverdi, with 39, came 34th, between Telemann and Rossini; Schütz, with 18, came 62nd, alongside Martinu and Gershwin; Palestrina, with 11, came 80th, alongside Massenet, Josquin, Giovanni Gabrieli, and Lachner; and Rheinberger, Bloch, Ireland and Rheinberger, just failed to reach double figures. The top three, Beethoven, Mozart and Bach, had more than 400 each.)

Early music still has a long way to go, and the immense, but probably to some extent transient, vogue for Renaissance "hit" songs and dances in the early seventies

(doubtless fostered to a large extent by the popular television series about Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I, just as the film *The Shogun* created an upsurge of interest in the Edo period) is far from being a reliable guide to the true size of the audience for more serious kinds of early music, almost 10 years on. Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH ROCHE, 25 Beech Grove, Ushaw Moor, Durham. December 28.

Berkeley's coach

From Sir John Balfour
Sir, In his letter "Bishop Berkeley's coach" (January 7) Judge Ainslie Bell takes you to task for having listed "at this time of year, even the audience for more serious kinds of early music, almost 10 years on." I am, Sir, Yours, Sir, JOHN BALFOUR, 38 Onslow Square, SW7. January 7.

A third airport for London

From Sir Colin Buchanan

Sir, For half a century it has been accepted wisdom to contain the growth of London within a ring of open country. Open country, that is to say, in the English sense of farms, small towns, villages and hamlets. Sir Patrick Abercrombie called it "London's open background". Amidst chaos and changes of London planning policy over the years, this idea has remained constant: probably the only policy which the public at large understands and wholly approves of. The policy has not been completely effective. Nevertheless the open country belt remains an identifiable reality of immeasurable benefit to London.

However, after all these years of endeavour, the Government now proposes a major incursion from which the northern sector can never recover. I refer to the choice of Stansted for the third London airport. The effect is not to be measured only in terms of so many houses demolished, so many people affected by noise, so many acres of farmland lost, and so on. The effect will be that of the largest single deliberate act of urban-industrial development ever to be thrust upon rural England, and in a particularly important sector into the bargain.

The Government proposes an open-ended commitment for the airport to grow to twice the size of Heathrow, with a dependent population of about 200,000. But the airport and the houses will not be the end of it. All manner of ancillary enterprises will gather round—supermarkets, hotels and cafes, freights depots, lorry parks, garages, car hire firms, contractors' yards, off-licence and cash-and-carry, other hand-outs and cash-and-carry, and never-ending construction work. I do not believe the planning system could control this lot, nor prevent its being at any stage of development sprawling, but a ragged urban sprawl with ragged noise corridors overhead, and infested on the ground with motor traffic in all its sordid aspects.

Nine years ago, when Mr Heath's Government accepted the off-shore site at Moolin in preference to ruining the Vale of Aylesbury with an airport at Cuddington, there was a good chance of the problem being solved once and for all. With the airport insulated off-shore, the ancillary development could have been directed into the London corridor with many economic benefits to the eastern side of London. But in 1974 Mr Wilson's Government, in a fit of insanity, dropped Moolin,

apparently hoping the problem would disappear.

Now it has come back, and although every local authority in the South East appears to be in favour of Stansted being revived, and although Stansted seems to be the only site in Britain which has caught the public imagination as the only possible place for such a hideously undesirable neighbour as an international airport, nevertheless the present Government, driven onto the rocks of expediency, prefers to revert to a site which was rejected 11 years ago after a bitterly contested public inquiry. I do not know what fine will be taken by Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils at the forthcoming public inquiry, but if, as rumour suggests, they decide to oppose, and if they fight with the tenacity shown by Essex in 1965-66, they will be formidable opponents for the Government to take on.

The Government is hardly likely to be persuaded at this juncture to switch from Stansted to some other site. I suggest that what should be done now is to re-examine the need for a third airport, and in particular to look at the growth of tourist traffic which appears to be the main justification for a new airport. It is the fashion these days to speak of all tourism because it seems to be our one and only growth industry. But when it comes to breathing a long-standing and respected planning policy by demolishing an airport in Essex, then surely it is time the costs and benefits of tourism were examined. From what I hear, there are many people around who think this country and possibly others are over-run with tourists as it is. In this view, the appropriate airport policy for this country would be to make the best use of the existing national airport system, and achieve major additions, by contrast, I heard a spokesman for tourism say on the radio recently that "tourism is still in its infancy". On this view, which postulates a large increase in airport activity, I believe there is now absolutely no alternative, in our small, crowded, much-loved country, but to find an off-shore site. There is no place inland in the whole kingdom where an airport would not be bitterly opposed by local people. In heaven's name, why cannot the aviation people get the message and come to terms with it and end once and for all the despondency with their ill-conceived plans?

Yours etc., COLIN BUCHANAN, Tunnel House, Box, Mouchingham, Gloucestershire.

Future of motor industry

From Lord Thomas of Remenham

Sir, In 1924 I was the equivalent of "Marking Director" of Morris Motors, as Colonel Sir R. Morris—later Lord Nuffield—and I jointly concocted the slogan "Buy British and be proud of it".

By 1933 more than 30 per cent of all orders for cars sold in Britain went across my desk. The patriotic slogan helped but was far from motivating the whole expansion of the sale of the product. The real reasons were that those cars were well made, suited to the needs of the times, had proper service backing and gave customer satisfaction.

Patriotism is not enough in the market place. Men and women will risk death for their country but will not stomach inferior goods.

To admit, by buying some other nation's car, that they are their own British engineers and stylists and service specialists have failed to keep up with international competi-

tion, is a damaging disgrace, especially as until three decades ago Britain swept the selling places with the transverse engine Mini, a wholly British invention.

What is needed today is for the patriotism of the car purchaser to be motivated by the performance, punctual production and panache of the product.

The downside of the British motor industry started when carelessness in craftsmanship set in on the factory floor. Faults such as Mr D. E. Rodericks mentions in his *Road 3500* (letter, January 8) are not attributable to concept, marketing, or to anything other than poor quality workmanship.

Get the work force to realize that it is the quality and punctuality of the goods made that bring in the orders that furnish the pay packets. Then exotic elements will exercise themselves.

Yours truly, ROMAN, House of Lords, January 8.

For the record

From Mr J. C. Sainsbury

Sir, Some two years ago the collection of public records was divided on a permanent basis. The modern records were transferred to a newly constructed repository at Kew while the earlier records remained at the Office in Chancery Lane. Search facilities have since been available at both places.

It has now been announced that, as part of the Government's policy of cutting public expenditure, the search facilities at Chancery Lane are to be discontinued. It is not intended that Chancery Lane should continue to be a record repository.

The older documents will continue to be housed there but readers will be obliged to go to Kew to consult them. Orders will thus be delayed and documents, some of which are unwieldy and fragile, will be liable to damage in transit. A further burden will be placed on the already overstretched re-

sources at Kew. One can see the case, in terms of economy and rationalization, for concentrating all the records and all the search facilities at Kew, however much one might regret the final abandonment of Chancery Lane. But that is not what is involved in the present proposal which seems, indeed, to embody the worst of both worlds.

Of course the Public Record Office, like other departments and agencies of government, must be expected to make its contribution to the solution of the country's economic problems but it is not, to say the least, self-evident that the discontinuation of the search facilities at Chancery Lane is the right contribution.

It is to be hoped that other means of securing the necessary savings will be carefully considered before the present plan is finally adopted. Yours faithfully, J. C. SAINSBURY, 22 Kew Palace, W8. January 4.

Protecting individual liberty

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, Lord Shawcross (December 29) "greatly deplores" certain recent decisions of the House of Lords as failing to counter fresh erosions of the rights of the subject. He accuses their Lordships of pusillanimity; and indicates their failure to grasp the issues involved. He has lost faith in judges as protectors of individual liberties.

He proposes as a remedy "a bill of human rights". All such bills necessarily consist of vague statements of principle, subject to equally vague exceptions. It has to be left to certain state functionaries to spell out the scope of these principles, and of the exceptions to them.

And who will these functionaries be? Why, the same judges whom Lord Shawcross now finds pusillanimous and incompetent. They will not change their attributes just because Parliament enacts a Bill of Rights. Lord Shawcross is clearly mistaken either in his diagnosis or his prescription. I will not presume to say which.

Yours sincerely, FRANCIS BENNION, 24 St Anny's, Hove, East Sussex. January 1.

From Mr J. Hendy
Sir, Few trade unionists will have been surprised to learn that Lord Shawcross (December 29) deplores the decision of the House of Lords in the case of *Express Newspapers v McShane*.

That decision has vindicated the right of a trade union to take such action as its national executive committee thinks fit in furtherance of a trade dispute in which the interests of its members are concerned. Most people conversant with industrial law had assumed that such a right has existed for many years past, and that assumption has now been proved correct.

The fact that Lord Shawcross shares with *The Times* the view that this situation renders the law intolerable probably does no more than to manifest once again their common dislike of combinations of workers strong enough to bargain from strength. But I find it odd that those who talk loudest about individual liberty are so distrustful of collective freedom.

Perhaps the truth is that many of those who proclaim their support for law and order lose their fervour when they learn that the law protects other interests than their own. Yours faithfully, J. HENDY, 1 Pocherres Cross, Peasden, Kent. January 2.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

From Colonel L. Maxwell

Sir, As an ex-Military Attaché to Moscow who has studied Afghanistan for several years, I do not think that the Russian forces will have much trouble in their occupation of the country. The invasion was well executed, as was our incursion a hundred years ago. During that campaign, only at Maimana did we suffer a major disaster: there was no reason assuming that the Russians will fare any the worse.

They, like us, will hope to meet occasional organized resistance and administer some salutary lessons. If elements of the Afghan Regular Army belatedly should try conclusions with them, that is why tanks and guns have been shifted into Kabul. If dissident groups can be pinpointed in small towns and villages, they will be bombed. There will undoubtedly be Afghan resistance, but it will be compelled to operate away from settled areas.

This will put the Russians into the same position as ourselves in 1879-80: they will rest secure in their bases, they will hold their guerrilla and armed peasant will reign supreme everywhere else.

Russian arms convoys will be able to move from place to place as they will, the opposition will be light. If they are careless, they will lose the odd company or squadron. Hungry patriots and tribesmen will ambush and raid, so punitive expeditions will be mounted from time to time. These will provide relief from monotony, and the Russian young officers and men will probably enjoy these operations; we did!

This is as far as comparison goes. We invaded Afghanistan, occupy it, and then within a few months we are seeking urgently for some pretext to get our again without too much loss of face. We find suddenly that we are pouring vast sums of money into a venture which is producing nothing in return. So we go.

The Russians will not go: they are there to stay. It will cost them roubles to do so, but only a very small part of their vast military spending. In any case, financial loss counts as nothing when offset by sound political gain.

They will keep a low profile. In a few months, some tanks may be flown back to the USSR with a proper fanfare of publicity. We will hear nothing about suppression in remote areas. It was not worth going to war for Hungary or Czechoslovakia; nobody is going to war with Russia over Afghanistan.

They know it, we know it. The Russians will remain. Yours faithfully, LEIGH MAXWELL, East Frankslands, Llandudno, Gwynedd, North Wales, January 6.

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, Some of us were derided and attacked seven or eight years ago for drawing attention to the essentially expansionist nature of the Soviet system, and to the inevitably illiberal character of the "détente" even then in the making.

Will those who did the deriding or carried out the attacks now have the grace to admit their error?

Our Prime Minister has been among the farsighted, and one is entitled to look to her and to Lord Carrington to reverse decades of a foreign policy based upon a systematic avoidance of unpleasant facts.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan should not have come as a surprise after Vietnam, Angola, Ethiopia, South Yemen and the rest. Nor is the use of Soviet forces against the Chinese in the Soviet block as much of a novelty as many appear to think. Hungary and Czechoslovakia, too, and the rest of the European satellites, were outside the Soviet block until Stalin

forcibly incorporated them into his empire: and Hungary and Czechoslovakia, in particular, did briefly and bravely reassert their independence until the Soviets crushed them.

By all means, let us boycott the Moscow Olympics and deprive the Soviets of a carefully planned propaganda kill. But let us not stop there, or even at banning the Soviet Union's wheat imports from the United States. For years Western governments, and Japan, have encouraged transfers of high technology to the USSR, mostly at absurdly low rates of interest, thus making an incalculable contribution to the Soviet military machine which threatens us of us. This suicidal lunacy should cease forthwith, if we are interested in survival. Yours very truly, BRIAN CROZIER, 112 Bridge Lane, Temple Fortune, NW11.

From Lord Boothby

Sir, I had not realized, until you suggested it (January 2), that Mr Brezhnev was frightened. Now I feel so sorry for him and his avatars at night wondering how we can allay his fears. Perhaps you will come up with some helpful suggestions, as you did at the time of Munich when Hitler showed similar signs of nervousness? Your obedient servant, BOOTHBY, House of Lords, January 3.

Cutting Russian studies

From Professor R. A. Peace

Sir, All right-thinking people must share your alarm at the ever-present threat of a Russian invasion of the British Isles. In January 2, yet, at this very moment, when Soviet expansion is in everybody's mind, a report is lying on the desks of Vice-Chancellors calling for a drastic cut-back in Russian studies in British universities. The Universities Committee Report on Russian and Russian Studies in British Universities, December 1979, suggests that 19 to 20 Russian departments should be closed down, restricted, or phased out. This represents a cut-back by half, and further reduction is forecast in five years time.

If these proposals are carried out they will deal a blow to Russian studies from which they may never properly recover. Irrespective of the dangers of physical contraction, the reduction of the geographical centres and of the overall number of university teachers of Russian, it is the psychological and academic damage which is most to be feared. A demoralised profession with a relatively young average age will be faced with a period of enforced decline. It will be deprived of "new blood" for a long time, and the consequences of this for research and teaching can hardly be exaggerated.

It is difficult to see who will benefit from these proposals. If the ostensible reason is economy, but as the Committee admits, it will actually cost money to implement them, and it suggests that new funds be made available to do so. It may be felt that these cut-backs are a necessary sacrifice to ensure the survival of the discipline, but defence, the one area in which expenditure has been deliberately increased, owes its special position to the existence of the Soviet Union. We, in Russian studies, also have a vital contribution to make to our country's defence potential whilst voting funds to impair our academic potential makes no sense as a coherent national policy. If it does, it is ominous. Yours faithfully, R. A. PEACE, President, British Universities Association of Slavists, Department of Russian Studies, University of Hull.

Homeless and rootless

From Mr Nicholas Beacock

Sir, If CHAR (Campaign for the Homeless and Rootless) were asking the Government to close its 23 reception centres throughout the country and throw single homeless people onto the streets with no course only to the present ineffective safety net of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977, the criticisms of Mr Martin Davis (December 21) of such a heinous policy would be absolutely valid.

Let our report, *From the End to the Workhouse*, calls on the Government to set in motion a three-pronged programme of action designed to close these centres and provide homeless individuals with safe havens both while the centres are being run down and after they have been closed.

First, the Secretary of State for Social Services should, in his present Social Security Bill, set a date for the closure of all the centres and the repeal of his responsibilities to provide such centres. Given the large reduction in commitment, he and his colleague, the

Secretary of State for the Environment, should plan for the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act to be extended to provide access to appropriate permanent accommodation for all homeless people once the centres are closed. Representatives of the local authority associations should be urgently consulted about the necessary arrangements to be made to assist homeless people in the interim period, and about the additional assistance they would require from central government in implementing an extended Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, which should then be brought into force.

Professor David Donnison, Chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, has, as Mr Davis points out, long advocated the replacement of the reception centre system by community housing and supportive services. CHAR is the only agency so far to produce a comprehensive plan to put this policy into effect. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS BEACOCK, Director, Campaign for the Homeless and Rootless, 22 John Adam Street, WC2. December 21.

Taking cycles by rail

From Mr Roger Holmes Hogg

Sir, Commuter-rail cyclists of the south east, frustrated by British Rail's new policy of banning the bicycle (Editorial, January 3), may take heart from my own recent experience involving British Rail and the bike.

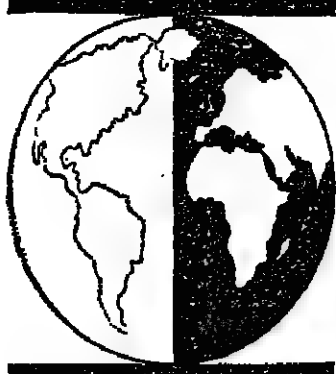
Having been given a folding bicycle by a relative in south east London, I transported it by taxi to King's Cross with the confident assumption that the bike would travel free of charge, in the guard's van. As we made for the barrier to board the high speed train, my daughter pointed out the small notice forbidding bicycles.

The ticket collector confirmed the fact and when I explained my dilemma—what do you do stuck with a bike on a metropolitan railway station?—directed me to the Station Master. He was wholly unhelpful and totally unimaginative; he showed me the clause relating to carriage of bicycles in his rule book. I was left with no bikes on my parcels; a bike is not a parcel. I tried parcels dispatch—an

enormous queue and 15 minutes before the train went. Panic! A bike is not a parcel but what if a bike became a parcel? The man at the tobacco kiosk gave me an old cardboard box; I got some more cardboard and string out of a Railbar refuse box.

It was now not merely a bike but was clearly, too, a parcel. The ticket collector agreed it was a parcel; the Station Master did not notice it was not a parcel; the north country guard looked me full in the face and said "Aye! of course it's all right; it's a parcel". The bicycle was stowed in the empty luggage van and masqueraded as a parcel up to Newcastle. When the very guard unloaded it on to the platform, I opened my parcel and rode away.

Cycling commuters, I hope, will find the experience useful to them. Yours faithfully, ROGER HOLMES HOGG, Department of Humanities, Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic, 12 Leazes Gardens, Kenton, Newcastle upon Tyne. January 4.



Chinese pay record price for trade site in Hongkong

Chinese Communist representatives paid a record price of \$10.74 million for a Hongkong property site at a record \$10.74 million (about \$1,074,000) — more than \$10,000 a square foot.

The site was bought by Peking-controlled Hip Kee Godown Company, which bought an adjacent one last year at \$HK33.8m (\$HK1,550 a square foot).

The Godown area—near a railway terminal—will be used for China's mounting trade with and through Hongkong.

Peking's investment in Hongkong property, container wharves, department stores, petrol stations, staff residential and high-rent apartments continues to soar.

Business and investment is conducted through 13 Peking-controlled banks in Hongkong.

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EEC prices rise

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Toyota US plans

Toyota may start car production in the United States later this year, Mr. Sadao Yamamoto, the company's president, said.

A start could be made with building a lorry assembly plant if demand warranted it, he added.

Gabon oil find

A joint French-Japanese exploration team has struck oil off the coast of Gabon in West Africa which is expected to yield 10,000 barrels a day from 1982.

Elf Aquitaine owns a 30 per cent interest in the venture. The other 70 per cent is owned by World Energy Development, Gabon, which is half-owned by the Japan National Oil Corporation.

Brazil-Iraq accord

Brazil has signed a nuclear deal with Iraq, agreeing to share nuclear technology while providing the Arab nation with uranium to produce fuel for reactors.

Pay pause rejected

The Dutch FNV and CNV trade union federations have rejected a proposal from Mr. Willem Albeda, the Social Affairs Minister, for a three to four month wage pause.

Doubts on effectiveness of several measures in proposed legislation

Employment Bill worries Chambers

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Doubts about the effectiveness of the Government's Employment Bill are expected to be expressed at today's meeting of the national council of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. Tom Boardman, the ABCC's president, has already criticized the proposed legislation for not going far enough to protect employees from the closed shop.

A belief that further reform is needed on such issues as industrial disruption of companies not party to a dispute is another of the points which have emerged from consultation with the various chambers of commerce since the Bill was published a month ago. These have been compiled in a discussion paper which will be presented at today's meeting and will be published later this week.

The ABCC welcomes the Bill as an "essential first step" in providing a "reasonable balance in industrial rela-

tions", but it believes that it falls short on a number of counts. In particular it has reservations about whether the widening of the "conscience provisions" for non-union membership will work in practice.

Instead the ABCC would like section 58 (3) of the Employment Protection Act repealed, so that dismissal for non-membership of a union would no longer provide grounds for fair dismissal in any circumstances.

This would remove any legal protection for employers who sacked an employee in order to appease a union, by making them liable to pay compensation for unfair dismissal. It does not go as far as a number of the association's 54,000 member companies would like, which would be to outlaw closed shops.

The association is also critical of the proposals which would enable the Secretary of State for Employment to publish codes of practice on matters such as closed

shops and picketing. Its objection is that Parliament can only accept or reject such codes but has no powers to introduce amendments.

A third area of contention is on "secondary picketing". The association does not think the Government has been firm enough in removing legal immunities from unions which attempt to use coercive recruitment tactics. In its view, the Bill falls short of what is required by excluding employees of another company such as maintenance men or installers who work on the same premises.

It would also like to see sanctions imposed on the practice whereby some companies refuse to do business with others because they do not have a closed shop.

"Such behaviour constitutes conspiracy against trade which should not be tolerated," it says. "Many of the worst offenders are in the public sector and are thus presumably subject to pressure by Parliament if they will not desist."

FORECASTS FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY

	NIESR (Nov)	LBS (Nov)	Year 1980 on year 1979 HG (Dec) (% change between years unless otherwise stated)	CE (Jan)	STJ (Oct)	P & D (Jan)	Treasury (Nov)
Gross domestic product	0.2	-1.1	-1.0	-1.2	0.9	-1.7	-2.0
Inflation	16.3	15.5	16.3	19.1	13.2	18.4	14
Unemployment (000)	1,420	1,287	1,500	1,700	1,650	1,410	n.a.
Consumer spending	1.6	0.1	-0.5	-1.5	0.7	-0.8	1
Private investment inc house- building	-2.0	-2.4	-0.7	-7.3	-0.9	-2.9	-1
Public investment inc house- building	-4.3	-2.2	-1.5	-6.4	-0.9	-6.3	-4
Public authorities consumption	-0.1	0.5	-0.6	0.9	0.5	-0.3	-0
Stockbuilding (£m 1975)	1,481	-396	291	-800	0.2	-300	-2
Exports	4.0	4.0	2.9	1.8	2.9	3.1	-0
Imports	1.7	-1.1	0.8	-3.3	-0.4	-0.3	-2
Balance of payments deficit (—) year 1980 £m	-3,300	-860	-300	900	-2,200	-800	-2,000
PSBR (£m fiscal 1980-81)	9,000	11,200	10,000	9,800	10,200	9,000	n.a.
Money supply (% change in £m3 fiscal 1980-81)	9	7.5	8	8.3	11.7	5.3	n.a.

NIESR: National Institute of Economic and Social Research. LBS: London Business School. HG: House Govt. CE: Cambridge Econometrics. STJ: St. James' Group; published in Economist. P & D: Phillips and Drew.

1 fourth quarter 1980 on fourth quarter 1979. 2 fourth quarter 1980. 3 excluding oil. 4 gross fixed investment. 5 private fixed investment. 6 public corporation's fixed investment. 7 stockbuilding as % of gdp. 8 second quarter 1981 on second quarter 1980. 9 PSBR is forecast to stay at about the same % of gdp in money terms as in 1979-80.

Forecasts for gdp components are in constant prices. The private forecasts assume policy changes. For details readers should refer to original sources. Categories in different forecasts are not completely comparable, but differences are minor. Differences in result also reflect difference in assumptions, model constructions and date at which work performed. The month in which work was published is given in brackets. Forecasts published by the Treasury twice-yearly: NIESR, CE and STJ four times a year; LBS three times a year; HG and P & D revise their forecasts every month.

Engineers seek top-level productivity talks

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

The Government should aim for higher productivity in industry, not only by giving cash to encourage investment in new plant and work methods, but also by providing housing and tax incentives to increase the mobility of the labour force, senior members of the professional engineering institutions have said.

Mr. Tony Dummett, chairman of the Council of Engineering Institutions and Council of Science and Technology Institutions group, asks Mrs. Thatcher, the Prime Minister, in a letter if she will meet them

to discuss the proposals, produced on the eve of publication of the Finlayson report on the engineering profession and manufacturing industry.

The need for action by employers, unions and the professional engineers themselves is emphasized by Mr. Dummett, whose group includes the heads of four leading institutions. Employers are urged to invest in high-output plant and the latest processes such as microprocessors. Genuine productivity agreements and incentive schemes should be negotiated on a plant rather than a national basis, the group says.

It also wants large production units broken down where practicable into smaller, more manageable units.

It adds: "Involvement of employees through open work-shop discussions, possibly on the lines of the legally based company councils in the Netherlands, is essential." More high-quality engineers and scientists, including women, should be employed in all aspects of production, says the group.

The group wants unions to consider ways of getting their members to accept change because, the group argues, increased productivity is the best means of protecting jobs.

Acceptance of new plant and methods, adoption of shift working and elimination of overmanning are the main issues, the group contends.

It adds that unions should encourage worker mobility rather than merely accepting unemployment.

Professional engineers should be prepared to work at shop-floor level to gain experience and to assist in the changes needed to secure higher productivity. They also have a role in improving communications between management and the shop-floor, the group suggests.

The despatch engineer, page 17

Consumers group backs reforms of liability law

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

A group representing 22 consumer organizations is urging the Government to reject CBI demands for changes in proposed reforms of the law of compensation for damage caused by defective products.

The Consumers in the European Community Group says an EEC draft directive on product liability, criticised by the CBI, would bring "consistency and common sense into the law of compensation for unsafe products."

Commenting on the revised directive submitted to the Department of Trade, the group welcomes the Commission's decision to reject a defence based on "development risk" which has been the subject of CBI complaints.

The group urges the Government to resist manufacturers' pressure for exemption from liability where they can show they did everything possible to make the product safe in the light of scientific and technological knowledge at the time it was marketed.

"It is unacceptable that consumers should be treated as guinea pigs and bear the risk, without remedy, of defects being discovered during use," the group says.

It points out that English law on strict liability accepts no such defence. In the leading English case, a dairy which sold contaminated milk was found liable to its customers who became ill, although it had done everything possible at the time to prevent contamination.

If the defence of development risk is accepted the group adds, victims of another thalidomide disaster would find it no easier to claim compensation.

The group opposes a proposal in the draft that liability should only arise when a defective article is "being used for the purpose for which it is apparently intended," arguing that consumers should be able to claim for injuries caused by dangerous products being used in reasonably foreseeable circumstances.

It adds that a proposed global limit on compensation would be inequitable if imposed in each member state regardless of population and the extent of damage caused.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Need for law to aid exploration into Britain's mineral resources

From Sir Kingsley Dunham
and Sir Peter Kent

Sir, In 1934 a Conservative Government recognized that search for oilfields on land in United Kingdom could not be effected against a background of the private ownership of royalty rights, and took steps to vest in the Crown the ownership of all British undiscovered hydrocarbon resources.

Exploration for oil has since followed over most of England, in Wales and in southern Scotland, with discovery from 1939 onwards of a number of small oil and gasfields, of high national value during wartime conditions, of which some in the Midlands are still producing.

A parallel need has now

arisen in the field of industrial minerals. Regional countrywide surveys by the Institute of Geological Sciences have indicated a number of areas of significant possibilities of mineraliferous discoveries, which could clearly be potentially important when overseas supplies become increasingly limited, but the problem of securing rights for more detailed prospecting is compounded by multiple surface ownership of minerals.

There is now again a real need for an act of nationalization which—in accordance with precedent—would be limited to undiscovered resources of minerals.

The period required for full definition and development of

a metallic mineral reserve, (an operation which should be the responsibility of private industry), cannot be less than 5-10 years. If there is recognition that in the next decade imported supplies of some metalliferous minerals are likely to become less easy and more expensive, decisive action on these lines is required now.

When shortages develop it will be too late either to assess or to develop our indigenous mineral resources.

PETER KENT
Past Chairman
Natural Environment
Research Council
KINGSLEY DUNHAM
Former Director
Institute of Geological
Sciences

Oil companies' responsibility for rural areas

From Sir David Morris

Sir, Though he has particular concern for the difficulties in Cornwall, your correspondent Mr. Jack-Martin (December 19) surely expresses the thoughts and opinions of all who live and work in rural areas. Like other similar areas, the Dales of North Yorkshire have already suffered badly from the first regulation closure of village petrol pumps and any further deterioration in the supply position will be most serious.

These rural communities cannot be allowed to disintegrate more than has already taken place. But the important hill farming industry and the rural industries and small businesses must be provided with essential services if they are to survive. Adequate petrol supplies are of vital importance in present conditions.

As distributors of essential fuel, the major oil companies must accept that they have a responsibility which, if need be, must override profitability factors in low population areas. It may well be that some pooling of petrol distribution in rural areas is justified but unless the oil companies find a way to continue supplying rural garages with or without the intervention of the Department of Energy, there are many of us who will support legislation as suggested by your correspondent.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MORRIS,
Muker in Swaledale,
North Yorkshire.

CBI approves members serving their country

From Sir John Methuen, the
Director-General of the
Confederation of British Industry

Sir, It is really not very sensible of Mr. Opi to suggest (January 4) that there is some kind of plot to prevent distinguished businessmen who have held state jobs from being re-employed in the private sector. The CBI has never sought to dissuade businessmen from serving the country in whatever role they felt to be most useful.

It is of course in the interests of trade and industry to ensure that Government bodies which affect their operations should have the advice of men with an

experience and understanding of business. Such advice was provided even for the Price Commission, whose interventionist activities damaged many companies and whose demise will not be mourned.

Nearly all the state industries are active members of the CBI and it is encouraging to note that there is a steady two-way traffic in management between them and private sector companies to the advantage of both.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN METHUEN,
21 Tophill Street,
London SW1H 9LP,
January 7.

Clause in Companies Bill not in any way 'restrictive practice'

From Mr J. H. Butcher

Sir, I must take issue with the letter from Nicholas Baker, MP, (Business News, December 18), complaining that the proposed clause in the Companies Bill requiring company secretaries of public companies be qualified was a "restrictive practice".

I am not surprised that he was the only member of the committee to vote against it. His comments on the role of a secretary seem to indicate a total lack of understanding concerning the responsibilities and functions of the modern secretary. With increasing complexity of statutory requirements, and public awareness of the need for accountability in corporate affairs, it is surely sensible that the person who must guide and

advise management, implement its decisions and be its collective conscience and often its direct link with shareholders, employees and the public should be qualified.

As an elected representative of the people, Mr. Baker ought to be more aware that there is no point in Parliament continuing its flood of legislation affecting all sectors of our daily lives, without any attempt to ensure that it will be workable and be complied with. The current proposal is a positive step within the companies sector towards this and ought to be welcomed.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. BUTCHER,
13 Welland Way,
Deering St James,
Peterborough, PE6 8QE.

Support for Sir Michael's 'Buy British' plea

From Mr Stanley Carter

Sir, May I support Sir Michael Edwards' suggestion that, if only for reasons of self-interest, we should buy British cars?

Unhappily the word "patriot" has become unfashionable in our country. Why we do not help to reestablish its popularity by doing what Sir Michael suggests? And let us start in the area where it could most quickly have effect—company car and truck fleets.

The vital step would be for the board to become involved and give a suitable directive. Come on company directors, do your stuff. You have the authority to make a very significant impact on the success of our economy to the advantage of us all including your own company.

STANLEY CARTER,
Dawewood,
Common Lane,
Hemlingford Abbot,
Cambs, PE18 9AW.

Santa Claus now has a new address

From Mr Thomas P. Joyce

Sir, My grandson, aged eight, still a firm believer in Father Christmas, has announced that obviously Father Christmas doesn't live at the North Pole but in Taiwan, because all the toys are made there.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS P. JOYCE,
11 Rue des Senghiers,
1170 Boitsfort,
Bruxelles,
Belgium.

Overdeduction of tax: a warning

From Mr J. C. Butler

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STANLEY CARTER,
Dawewood,
Common Lane,
Hemlingford Abbot,
Cambs, PE18 9AW.

suffered an over-deduction of tax. Moreover, if the Bank of England has issued statements of deduction of tax from interest on other stocks in similar form, there will almost certainly be holders of those stocks who are similarly affected.

They might like to look into this, and perhaps the Bank of England could be a little more thoughtful.

J. C. BUTLER,
22 Goodways Ave.,
Radlett,
Hertfordshire WD7 8BA.

Burden of VAT discourages essential house repairs

From Mr C. A. Williams

Sir, Several of your correspondents have pointed out that the levy of VAT at the standard rate on building repair work imposes a severe burden on churches and charities. Many individuals of limited means are discouraged from undertaking essential repairs to their homes by the high cost of such work, of which VAT is a significant part now.

You report that the National Consumer Council has found that many elderly and infirm

people are not insulating their roofs because of the high cost of the work, despite the availability of government grants; this is another case where people are discouraged from carrying out essential work by the imposition of the standard rate of VAT.

Mr. Smith (December 20) invites illustrations of the absurd distinction between work which is zero-rated and that which is taxed. I offer an example from the roofing business. A VAT tribunal ruled that replacement

of a tiled roof by thatch for aesthetic reasons was an alteration and should be zero-rated. Had the householder been unable to afford thatch and simply carried out essential repairs or renewed the roof with tiles he would have been charged VAT at the standard rate.

Yours faithfully,
C. A. WILLIAMS,
The National Council of Building Material Producers,
26 Store Street,
London WC1E 7BT.

Trade fair aid cuts can only hinder export effort

From Mr Kenneth Brooks

Sir, On December 3 and 8 reference was made to the Government's intentions to scale down the financial aid available to so-called larger companies taking part in overseas exhibitions, trade missions, and the like.

All sensible people realize the need for economies at all levels, but at a time when they are being asked to rally together and increase the total export

effort, it is hard to understand the sense behind the new thinking, which is surely negative in the extreme. With overseas exhibitions and trade missions serving as the catalyst for Britain's world trade in vitally important market areas, why tie the hands of our manufacturing industries in this short-sighted way? It comes as no surprise to find that Germany's trade and industry already invests two and a half times what

their British counterparts spend on exhibition participation. Look where they got them!

By all means help the smaller firms, but why penalize the larger ones?

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH S. BROOKS,
Joint Managing Director,
Mack-Brooks Exhibitions Ltd,
62 Victoria Street
St Albans,
Hertfordshire AL1 3XT,
December 13.

No real hedge against hyper-inflation

From Mr P. A. Vans

Sir, I was in China during the winter of 1947-48. In Peking (then called Peiping), when the currency was depreciating at the rate of about half its value every month or less. The street markets had plenty of good antique china (as well as the usual mass of fakes) at prices which would buy food

for a family for a week or so.

The reason why these valuables did not provide a hedge against inflation was that the way that no one except a few foreigners had enough money to pay a "fair" price for them—whatever that might have been. Just to show that this is not an isolated pheno-

menon, I read the other day of a foreigner buying a gold article in Tehran for a song—presumably because the economy of Iran is in such a bad way that no one could afford to pay the present inflated price for gold.

P. A. VANS,
Guy Hall, Awra, Newnham,
Glos GL14 1EL.

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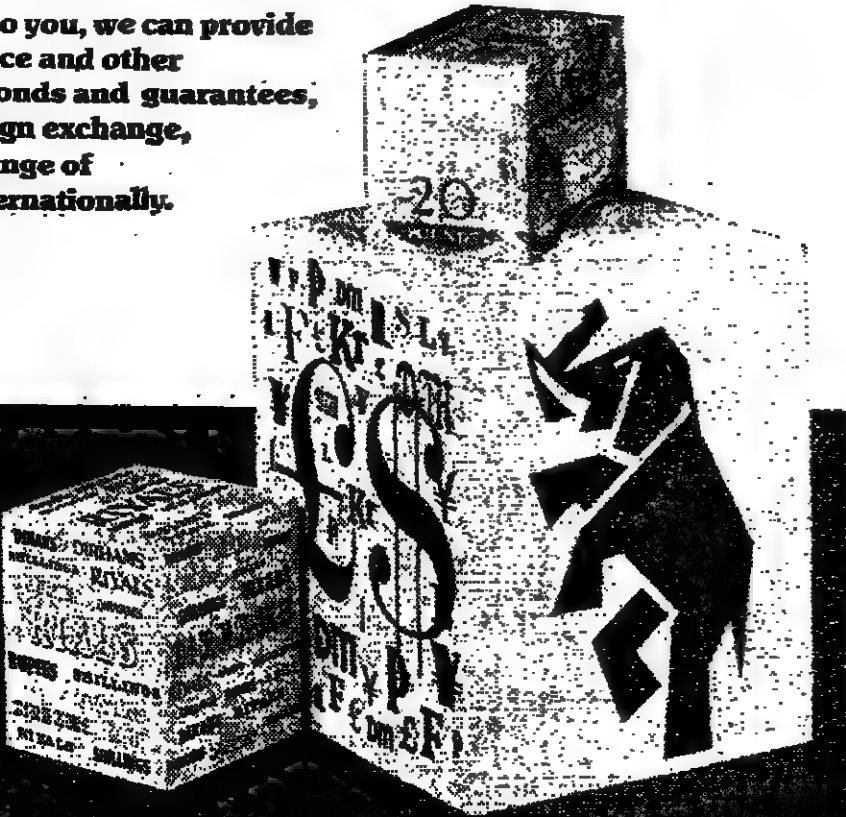
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هكزامن الأصيل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A number of niggling doubts...

The preliminary indication from yesterday's banking figures of money supply growth of around a half per cent in December is reasonably encouraging but certainly no more than that at this stage.

The authorities now seem to be making slow progress towards curbing excessive monetary growth seen for much of last year. A 0.5 per cent rise in sterling M3 in banking December would reduce the annualized rate of growth in the first six months of the present target period to around 11 per cent, not so far above the top end of the 7-11 per cent target range.

There are, however, still a number of niggling doubts. In the first place, the underlying strength of private sector loan demand remains difficult to estimate. Although the latest clearing bank figures suggest a sharp drop in the underlying rate of increase, that is largely because borrowers have moved back to market borrowing in the wake of the mid-November base rate increase. Averaging November and December suggests an underlying monthly rate of increase of some £300m.

The second area of uncertainty centres on the public sector contribution to monetary growth. Given the high level of gross gift sales and calls during the period, one can only call a half per cent rise in sterling M3 as just about satisfactory. It may be that net sales of gifts were considerably less or that other components of public sector debt sales were relatively low.

But there is now an uneasy feeling about that the final outcome for the PSBR in the present financial year is likely to be closer to £900m than the forecast £830m, and possibly even the wrong side of £900m. As for tomorrow's new stock offering, a fair amount looks likely to depend on the mood of the market this morning. In favour of the stock is the possible attraction to some investors of switching longer and the fact that holders of the Treasury 9 per cent convertible stock will have to switch out by January 28 unless they are prepared to wait for their money until early March.

Shares of both Carliol and Tyneside went shooting up yesterday, and small wonder: it appears that the long-standing problems with the Revenue (which prevented merger of the two back in 1978) are about to be resolved once and for all by a bid which will take shareholders out at something very much nearer to asset value than they have been able to command.

The participants are that great innovator in the sector, Rothschild Investment Trust, by way of its newly-acquired subsidiary Daumay Day, which in turn owns the unit trust management group Target. The deal, which involves paper rather than cash, is highly complex, but fortunately shareholders do not need to do anything in a hurry. Nor should they.

Even at last night's close the shares of both Carliol (140p) and Tyneside (135p) were standing at a discount of over 15 per cent to estimated net asset value, and there's more to be hoped for from staying with them at this stage.

Shipping

Implications of a grain embargo

United Kingdom shipping shares are taking the United States grain embargo on Russia calmly at the moment, although there were further modest falls across the board yesterday on reports that the other major Western producers were likely to back the United States.

Is the market being too complacent? Freight rates more than doubled last year, marking the end of the worst shipping recession since the 1930s, and a major factor in the recovery was the worldwide growth of grain shipments. For the current year as well dry cargo rates were expected to stay buoyant on the back of continued strong demand for grain from Russia and China, particularly, with one of the other main bulk commodities, iron ore, suffering from the steel downturn.

For perspective, Russian grain imports—most of which come from the United States—are forecast to be around 30-35 million tonnes in 1980, which represents about a fifth of the world grain trade and perhaps 2 per cent of world seaborne trade excluding oil.

There are still enough uncertainties about the duration and effectiveness of the United States embargo. But it has come at a bad psychological time for freight markets, already nervous about the effects of an oil glut or Opec production cuts on the tanker market.

For the world shipping fleet, any inter-

ruption with the Russian grain trade would fall heavily on third party charterers since very little is carried by United States fleets and perhaps only a quarter by Russian ships. For British companies those with the biggest exposure are P & O (although the emphasis of its bulk cargo fleet has switched to gas carriers), Reederei Smith and Lyle Shipping. During much of 1979 more and more of these groups' spot and charter business had been getting shorter although there were signs towards the end of the year that contracts were becoming longer which may help to shield them if the market softens this year.

Though freight rates have yet to show much weakness, the shipping sector is starting to look less attractive than it did particularly with the strength of sterling and the rise in oil prices putting more pressure on the costs side.

Esperanza

After the Caleb Brett settlement

Esperanza's profits are 19 per cent lower after six months at £1.4m but that is after settlement of an action claiming inadequate inspection of an oil cargo against its subsidiary, Caleb Brett. This probably cost Esperanza something over £0.6m, so it can in fact point to an underlying improvement in international service profits of around 8 per cent so far, led ironically by Caleb Brett whose cargo inspection business is benefiting from demand from shippers conscious of the risks implicit in the high value of cargoes now being carried.

This coupled with a revaluation (mainly of property in Amsterdam and Nottingham) has generated sufficient confidence for the group to raise the net dividend by 13 per cent. If the final received similar treatment Esperanza at 103p is yielding just under 10 per cent, and with the Caleb Brett problem behind it, looking attractive.

And there could be a bonus—though a long-term one. Copper operations in Cyprus have now been terminated (Esperanza took in its last profit of £0.26m in these six months figures) and the development potential of the seafloor site at Paphos as a tourist complex looks even more attractive now that an airport is to be sited near there.

In theory floating rate note issues should be popular when interest rates are rising and should hold their prices close to par because of the periodic adjustments to their rates. In the Eurobond market this is just ceasing to be so.

During the past few weeks floating rate note issues have taken a drubbing, in spite of the growing expectation that dollar rates have yet to test their previous peaks. Most recent deals are standing at 2-3 point discounts from their issue prices and the climate for new issues is far from bright.

Given that floaters accounted for around 40 per cent of all new Eurobonds—and two thirds or so of all dollar issues—the difficulties now confronting the sector bode ill for the market as a whole in 1980.

The short explanation for their diminishing popularity is that the barrel has been scraped too thin. During much of 1979 floaters were in keen demand and issuing houses took the opportunity both to pare margins and to bring to the market exotic issues of less than prime quality.

The shake-up in attitudes resulting from Iran and the Opec price rises has led to a reassessment. Banks which had filled their books with floating rate issues are now asking themselves why they should buy developing country paper at one quarter per cent over inter-bank rates when they can secure two or three times that margin from the same borrower in the syndicated loan market.

The relative generosity of bond market fees falls well short of filling the gap. Now that syndicated loan margins are rising, particularly for developing countries, the question is more than ever apposite: why have the exotic issues been so popular?

The exotic issues then, are likely to have to pay more generous margins (although a current deal for the Bank of Bogota is structured very much on the familiar pattern) or else disappear from the market altogether. Even prime issuers will find the market more difficult—as Barclays recently discovered—unless they are prepared to offer some extra incentive to investors on the lines of Midland's attractive option to switch into a straight bond.

Unless United States dollar rates turn decisively down stimulating a revival in straight, the dollar could thus face eclipse as a currency in the international bond markets this year.

The British Steel Corporation produced in the spring of 1978 a document entitled "Prospects for Steel". This grey-coloured volume was to be the basis of the corporation's forward planning and the foundation on which its fortunes would be rebuilt. The revised version should be edged in black.

The strike by the steel unions over their pay claim puts under tremendous strain the Government's policy of non-intervention and allowing managers in both the public and private sectors freedom to reach their own decisions.

So far the Government has stayed its hand. But steel is basic to a whole range of British industries—electrical and mechanical engineering, motor and automotive components manufacture, food processing, shipbuilding and a host of others.

If the strike really gets a grip it could take years to recover from its long-term effects. Sooner or later the pressures on the Government will be such that it is forced to intervene in some way or another. Both sides to the dispute now agree that the gap between them has widened and any bridge-building will have to be done by common sense rather than those directly involved.

The prolonged halt of BSC production which is now in prospect will have awesome consequences for industry. Thousands of workers will be threatened with lay-offs by the end of this month and companies which have managed to ride out the transport and engineering industry disputes may not be able to survive this time.

The stockholding industry, which accounts for about 40 per cent of all United Kingdom steel deliveries, will provide a temporary cushion for industrial customers. But the stockholders are faced daily with increased picketing by the striking steelworkers.

Intervention by successive governments has hindered rather than helped the corporation. There have been errors of judgment, losses have mounted to £1,400m and morale at all levels has evaporated. The BSC presents a pathetic sight—a dinosaur among the silicon chips. But the repercussions of the strike on the corporation itself, grave though they will be, represent only the tip of an iceberg.

British Shipbuilders (faced with similar demands from its workforce to those made by the steelworkers, is in no position to withstand a long stoppage. Stocks of plates should be sufficient to ensure continued production for two or three weeks, but after that, if supplies dry up, workers will have to be laid off and the task of persuading owners to build in Britain will become even more of an uphill task.

The strike could not have come at a worse time for the motor industry, with the new car market already expected to fall by about 12 per cent from last year's levels and domestic manufacturers desperately attempting to stem the inflow of imported vehicles.

Many companies have already established second sources as a result of shortages in quality and reliability on the part of the BSC over the past 10 years. The corporation has invested more than £4,000m in the past decade but the hoped for improvements in productivity, which at present lags lamentably behind that of European and Japanese competitors, have not materialized.

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Steel: pressures which will force the Government's hand

Peter Hill

Stocks at a low level

If this continues and imported steel is blocked, deliveries will rapidly dry up and companies will be left to spin out their own stocks. These are already modest because of the high cost of financing stockpiles.

All the indications are that the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation will want to step up the dispute by stages, extending the picketing first to the stockholders and then to the private sector with which it formally has no dispute. A decision to do

Why despise the engineer?

Derek Harris

Technik is the Holy Grail that Britain must seek if poor industrial performance is to be righted. This will be a central message of the Finniston Committee's report on the state of the engineering profession and manufacturing industry, due out today.

But what is Technik? Or, rather, what is the philosophy implied by this German description of an attitude to engineering which also underlies much other continental practice—especially in France—and has since spread to countries such as Japan?

It is the synthesis and practical application of knowledge which comes from many disciplines, the aim being to devise technical and economic solutions to practical problems. The movement had its beginnings in Germany's Technische Hochschule and France's Grandes Ecoles estab-

lished around the start of the last century. The Continentals wanted a slice of the action in the Industrial Revolution which had started in Britain. These countries developed the

discipline of Technik to run as a co-equal with purely scientific scholarship; once again innovation Britain was being overtaken.

Technik has since been nurtured in specialist educational institutions outside the universities and frequently of greater academic prestige than them. But in Britain, although individual great engineers emerged, the formal academic study of engineering grew up in universities founded on the two cultures of the liberal arts and pure science. Engineering had to be grafted on to science faculties to gain academic acceptance.

Britain was thus trapped within a tradition, broken only here and there, of preoccupation with pure theory and research rather than more mundane, market-place applications.

Technik, the third distinct culture, did not emerge here. Hence the long debate in Britain about achieving a balance between theory and practice in the educational preparation of the engineer

result has been a series of fishing incidents and arrests of vessels by Libya, Tunisia and Malta.

With Tunisia the position is complicated by the expiry of the fishing agreement last summer and the fact that a new agreement has not yet been negotiated. It is hoped that more sophisticated plants of the kind could one day be exported to North African countries which lack national grids.

Signor Matarrella had planned to visit Stuttgart as part of a strategy to interest industrialists in other western countries in investment in Sicily. He had also developed informal contacts with the European Community, without going through the Rome Foreign Ministry.

The Brussels office of the Banco di Sicilia served, as he called it, as an "observation post" through which it was possible to lobby Community officials.

Signor Matarrella, a follower of the late Signor Aldo Moro assassinated by the Red Brigades, had a different political style from that of his father, the late Bernardo

into the 150 designated schools of engineering and especially the dozen or so leading ones.

There is no question of engineering being a soft student option, a not unknown reaction in Britain. In Germany it can mean a six or seven-year course and in France four to six years followed by two or three years of on the job technical and management work.

Unlike Japan, influenced originally at least by the form of the French system, which turns out highly competent, technically knowledgeable administrators, the United States was not a direct inheritor of the continental tradition. But engineers are both prized and rewarded well and an engineering course opens the way to many different career ladders.

It is a sad commentary on the British attitude to engineers that too frequently company boards call in the engineers merely to deal with technical difficulties once key decisions have already been made. The production engineers who are at the heart of most manufacturing processes are an example.

In West Germany 60 per cent of company board members have engineering backgrounds. French students clamour to get

They are ill-paid and overloaded with responsibilities. No wonder the people of talent needed for such a job have found production engineering unattractive as a career.

An unhappy commentary is public attitude in this country to engineers. A survey for Finniston showed that 68 per cent thought an engineer was somebody doing manual work, probably with machinery, and only 13 per cent associated the title with design or research work at the professional level. A far cry from the respectful tones which greet their opposite numbers in Germany.

Technik does not solve all problems. The Germans, for instance, have been suffering from a shortage of secondary, grade engineers. But it must be beyond argument that the massive cultural shift implied in embracing the Technik philosophy would be to Britain's advantage.

It remains to be seen whether the impetus of Finniston, if supported by Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, can start such a change.

Another step backwards for Sicily

Rome

The assassination at the weekend of Piersanti Mattarella, the 44-year-old premier of Italy's autonomous Sicily region, has a significance beyond the phenomena of the Mafia, or terrorism or even the political message that a Christian Democrat prepared to admit communists into the government has no future in the island.

From the point of view of the economy it means the loss of one of those who were trying to channel development in a new direction.

In a conversation with me near Taormina last November Signor Mattarella stressed that there had been a disastrous concentration on petrochemicals and the emphasis should now be on areas like tourism and agricultural processing.

The big petrochemical complexes erected since the war in the areas of Priolo-Siracusa and Gela have not brought Sicilians the economic benefits they had hoped for. Since the oil crisis of 1973-74, have proved increasingly unprofitable. The concentration on petrochemicals had not been the island's choice, but was decided

by industry and government at national level, Signor Mattarella said.

The island also needed to build up a diversified industrial base and a big opportunity, in his view, was represented by the Transmed pipeline, which from the end of 1981 is to bring up to 12,300 million cubic metres of Algerian methane to Italy. Sicily had obtained the right to use one-third of this and the regional government had also negotiated with SNAM, the ENI group's gas distribution company, to offer to the smallest industrial user in the island the same price as for big consumers on the mainland.

Sicily could not at present absorb it all and as a stop-gap arrangement, a large part of its allocation would be used in power stations, pending studies on attracting new industry.

One sector requiring reorganization and development is fishing. Southern Italy's biggest sea-going fleet is based at Mazara del Vallo in South-West Sicily, but it has fished local water nearly clean and is being forced to go farther afield. The

result has been a series of fishing incidents and arrests of vessels by Libya, Tunisia and Malta.

With Tunisia the position is complicated by the expiry of the fishing agreement last summer and the fact that a new agreement has not yet been negotiated. It is hoped that more sophisticated plants of the kind could one day be exported to North African countries which lack national grids.

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first sod on the site of a pilot solar energy plant being built near Catania.

This will provide electricity for the national grid and is being built under EEC auspices with help from West German and French companies. It is uneconomic at present, but it is hoped that more sophisticated plants of the kind could one day be exported to North African countries which lack national grids.

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Matarrella. Several times a minister in Christian Democrat governments, his father was in fact accused of collusion with the Mafia in a minority report issued by Parliament's anti-Mafia Commission in the mid-1960s.

His son, who according to friends felt the aspersions cast on his father keenly as a young man, took up the subject of the Mafia in a speech welcoming President Pertini to Palermo in November. "It must be made possible for the young people in Sicily, so anxious for reform and greater justice, so interested in everything happening around them—for this new generation of Sicilians to overcome this sad phenomenon, to isolate, beat and conquer it for ever."

His death shows how far away this goal still is. It makes more remote the chances of escaping an economic way of life in which the easiest road to profits is parasitic and non-productive, relying on the more dubious sides of personal patronage and on percentages verging on the illegal.

John Earle

Business Diary: After Carli, Who? • British Rail's arch developer

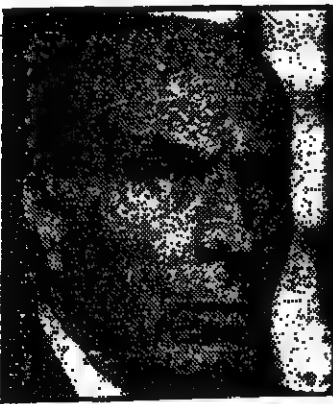
Time is short, but no candidate is yet in sight to succeed Guido Carli as president of Confindustria, Italy's Confederation of private industry. He has to step down under statute early in May.

A group of "three wise men", headed by Marcello Modiano, a Trieste businessman who represents the small industrialists in Confindustria, is sounding out members, but has yet to find anyone acceptable who is willing to take on the job.

Among those reported to have given a polite "no" are Franco Mattel, Confindustria's former director-general who now holds senior posts at Pirelli and Istituto Bancario Italiano; Sergio Pininfarina, head of the Turin industrialists' association; and Luigi Orlando of the Florence metals firm of SMI.

The wise men report today to the Confindustria leadership and the signs are that they will be told to continue looking. Carli, who has done two two-year terms, is to devote himself to the union of European industrial confederations, of which he is to become president.

Confindustria has regained the much influence, first under the chairmanship of Giovanni Agnelli of Fiat and then under Agnelli for 15 years governor of the Bank of Italy.



Guido Carli.

members, on the grounds that his experience has been in banking and not in running a company, but he recently achieved a notable success by agreeing a joint approach with the unions to the energy crisis.

Another problem facing Confindustria director-general Savona, its brought across whom Carli in 1976 from the Bank of Italy in 1976. Savona has been appointed head of a publicly-owned medium-term lending institution in Sardinia which may mean that a new director-general will have to be found.

One or two more monuments to the Victorian heyday of the railways are likely to be changed, in content if not in form, during the rule of Gavin Simpson (right) at the British Rail Property Board. He takes over from Robert Dushwood at the end of March, as the managing director of a portfolio valued somewhat imprecisely—after all, how do you put a value on a railway station—in hundreds of millions.

Simpson is a Scot who joined the old London Midland and Scottish Railway in 1945 at the tender age of 14 and studied for his surveyor's qualifications after hours. He has moved far and fast since he came down to London in 1974 as estate surveyor and manager of the



Photograph: Bill Warriner

Property Board's southern region.

There are perhaps a hundred projects at various stages of competitive and deregulated business environment.

As of last night National Airlines of Miami, with its 8,500 employees and route network spanning much of the East and South of the United States, officially became registered by the Florida Secretary of State as a wholly owned subsidiary of Pan Am with its 28,700 employees and international routes.

The registration was the final act in a 16-month takeover saga involving a stock market battle, hearings before the United States Civil Aeronautics Board and a formal nod of approval from President Carter.

development at present. The biggest of them—Snow Hill in Birmingham and the 180,000 square feet development at Aberdeen—are out of London and Simpson says he sees himself devoting much time and attention to working with local authorities on the "well-established policy" of bringing vacant land back into use.

But Londoners are not to be entirely neglected. Plans for redevelopment of Fenchurch Street are well advanced; development of Victoria (without touching the facade) are under consideration; and City workers can look forward to the opening next autumn of a big new leisure complex, complete with swimming pools and squash courts, underneath the arches at Cannon Street.

Remember Pan Am, the company that a year or two ago was heading for bankruptcy and on the way to making the Shah of Iran its main shareholder? Well that animal no longer exists. Instead, at five o'clock yesterday afternoon executives of the airline proclaimed "the new Pan Am."

A efficiency-boosting and cost-cutting programme has put Pan Am on a sounder footing, but the chairman, William Seawell, was always aware that the airline needed a strong domestic route network if it was to survive in America's highly

Pan Am's William Seawell.

One Duffy in a position of influence in the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers might be enough for some people, but I fear that the younger brother of union president Terry has been elected president of the Wolverhampton West branch.

Just to make life more interesting for Duffy senior, a noted right-winger, brother Dennis is a left-winger.

Ross Davies

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Early selling on steel breakdown absorbed

Markets looked almost normal yesterday for the first time in nearly three weeks. Golds and oils moved into the shadows and investment attention shifted back to gilt edged which ended all square or better on the day. The same was true of United Kingdom industrials. At the close they had regained a lot of ground lost in early morning weakness.

At the start of business dealers took no chances. The collapse of steel peace talks and the indication in the December wholesale price index

Some of the little birds who have been selling us a bid for CompAir, the compressed air equipment people, have changed their tune. They now say that the bid is off. The group is confident about 1979-80 after a full year of profits from £11.6m to £8.35m, last year, but at 74p the shares are high in the absence of a bid.

of the pounding taken by industry's margins prompted dealers to mark down shares nearly everywhere. Engineering issues were hit hardest. But selling in any size did not appear and by early afternoon one or two industrials were showing small gains. Many brokers reported that selling had dried up by 3.30 pm and that institutions were quick to go bargain hunting. Several brokers were sufficiently comforted to suspect that the FT index will not, after all, dive to 350 or lower but show resistance at 380 to 400.

The FT index was still down

12.5 points at 11 am, but by 1 pm the fall was only 5.7. By 3 pm the drop was 2.9. However the rally faded and at the close the FT index finished 4.3 lower at 415.6. The tone remained weak after hours, and where changed prices were a penny or two easier.

Gilt edged began to pick up before the release of the United Kingdom banks' eligible liabilities and the London clearing banks' monthly statements at 2.30 pm. Dealers decided that the statements were good on the surface—both liabilities and advances are down—this cautious welcome soon gave way to renewed scepticism. The apprehension remains that the January figures will be bad. And the December figures seem likely to show M3 above the Government's target annual

The result was that gilt fell back again to below top levels. Today a further dampener on proceedings will be the £351 call on the 14 per cent Treasury stock, 1998-2001 which will absorb up to £35m. Longs and shorts both finished with gains of between £1 and £1 on the day.

After some early marking-down, as a result of the breakdown in the steel talks, leading industrials performed quite well and some managed to finish the session showing some net gains on the day. Among those to fall into this category were Glaxo up 6p at 441p, BAT's 3p to 243p while Fisons leapt 11p to 277p in a thin market. Hawker Siddeley shed 4p to 182p, on fears of the steel strike becoming a long, drawn-out affair. ICI dipped 3p to

339p and Unilever retreated 2p to 456p. News of a new contract valued at about £40m lifted Rascal, to finish the day with a net rise of 1p at 200p, after falling to 190p, and Decca rose 10p to 335p and the "A" 5p to 299p in anticipation of the sale of its musical subsidiary to PolyGram for about £11m. Elsewhere in electricals, Thorn dipped 2p to 280p, and GEC finished 1p higher at 337p.

The only bright spot was Office & Electronic, an old takeover favourite, which expanded 7p to 242p in a thin market.

Shares of West of England Trust returned from suspension 7p up at 84p following the approach from Globe Investment Trust, 1p off at 113p, valued at £18m.

Shares of Cartell Investment Trust rose 23p to 140p along with those of Tyneside Investment Trust which climbed 26p to 125p. This was followed later in the day by an announcement that the two groups were in talks with Hume Holdings.

Further consideration of the bid terms from Marsh & Maclellan left C. T. Bowring and Sotheby Parke Bernet, with figures out today, slipped 2p to 395p. Press comment on the boom being experienced by the

4p lower at 138p. Only Minet, 3p better at 101p and Sedgwick Forbes, 2p up at 92p, managed to find some encouragement, among other brokers, to the bid in an otherwise dull insurance sector. A placing of £2m worth of shares in Legal & General saw the price dip 2p to 153p, after 151p.

Among the other composites, Royal fell 3p to 315p, GRY 2p to 228p and Commercial Union 1p to 135p.

Profit-taking clipped 6p from Silkstone at 126p in the absence of the expected bid from Croda

Antony Gibbs is now 68p. Last month it was reported that Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation had opened talks with Gibbs for the 60 per cent of the shares it does not own. Some think that to get a member of the Accepting House Committee Hongkong Bank will have to offer around 90p a share.

and Sotheby Parke Bernet, with figures out today, slipped 2p to 395p. Press comment on the boom being experienced by the

jewelry trade as the price of gold soared provided a firm spot for E. Jones, 13p up at 177p and H. Samuel up 8p at 202p. In the drinks sector, Distillers improved 1p to 197p on news that it was to increase the price of its brands of Scotch, but Highland Distillers continued to wobble as it waited for further developments in its fight to stave off Hiram Walker.

The change of chairman at St Piran did little for the shares, which remained unchanged at 60p, but Holford

was wanted, rising 4p to 21p. Among companies reporting, Stead & Simpson gained 3p to 42p after the announcement of its 34 per cent rise in profits, but a 12 per cent advance in interim figures at Peter Black saw the shares slide 3p to 103p.

Equity turnover on January 7, was £71.97m (14,116 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were, GEC, Consolidated Gold Fields, C. T. Bowring, P. & O. D'f, BP New, BOC International, Becham, ICI, Thorn, BP, BAT and Marks & Spencer.

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Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Centroway (I)	13,714.22	0.77(0.74)	21.8(19.5)	4.0(3.3)	8/4	(19.9)
Esplanade (I)	2,412.71	1.4(1.7)	—	2.2(2.7)	—	—
Huema (I)	5,415.1	0.6(0.5)	0.32(0.44)	18/2	—	—
Investors Capital (F)	—	2.04(1.39)	1.33(1.3)	—	2.9(2.0)	—
Peter Black (I)	15,812.3	1.31(1.2)	7.9(7.1)	1.47(1.33)	2/5	(8.0)
Reed & Simpson (I)	17,281.13	1.31(1.47)	—	—	15/2	—
Winterbottom Tst (F)	—	0.59(0.47)	7.7(5.6)	5.2(3.6)	—	7.5(5.6)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on price per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown on a pre-tax basis unless stated otherwise. Figures for both years are available for central issues, b includes special dividend of 0.4p. c Figures for both years pre-tax revenue. d Adjusted for scrip issue.

Stead & Simpson 34pc ahead

By Rosemary Unsworth
Stead & Simpson's mix of hose retailing and motor trading proved a good recipe in the first half as profits rose by an overall 34 per cent, though the pace is easing in the second half.

Turnover increased by 27 per cent to £17.3m in the six months to September 30, 1979, while pre-tax profits moved up from £1.4m to £1.9m. Footwear profits, which benefited from the spending boom generated before VAT was increased in June and the cuts in income tax, rose from £1.2m to £1.6m while motor trading in common with the rest of the sector, saw a

30 per cent jump to £298,000. At the same time, footwear sales jumped by 26 per cent to £10.2m and motor trading turnover showed similar growth to £7m.

The share price rose 3p to 42p on the announcement as market men reacted to Stead's progress compared with the bleak picture generally in the retailing sector. The group's growth in the current half has continued although at a slower rate.

Turnover in the third quarter, which includes Christmas and the start of the January sales, has shown a 25 per cent in-

crease for footwear and a 9 per cent rise for motor trading. Even though the fourth quarter is the group's traditionally quiet period, full year results are expected to be better than average for the sector. Last year Stead & Simpson made £32m pre-tax.

The interim dividend has been increased by 48 per cent to 1.42p gross but chairman, Mr Harold Gee, pointed out that the rise must not be taken as indicative for the full year's distribution but as a way of reducing the disparity between the interim and the final dividends.

Advance of nearly one fifth at Halma

By Our Financial Staff
Locks and safety equipment manufacturer Halma has raised its share price by a fifth in the first half of the current year.

An improvement in all divisions gave the group a pre-tax profit of £607,000 for the six months to September 30, 1979, compared with a previous £510,000. Turnover rose less sharply from £5.1m to £5.4m. Because of the group's liquid position—it is thought to have some £500,000 in cash—interest

credited some £1,700 to the profit figure against a debit of £36,000 in the previous half. Stripping out these figures, profit margins show a rise, at the trading level, of 0.7 per cent to 11.2 per cent.

The group's biggest cash earner is Castells Locks which again increased its contribution. Halma now has two footholds in Europe, in France and Holland, and is planning to develop the continental market through these companies.

The safety division is also expanding into America following the takeover, in November, of Post Glover, and the setting up of Castells Safety Inc.

For shareholders there is a one third rise in the dividend giving an interim pay out of 0.74p gross. If this increase is maintained at the year end the total dividend will amount to 1.96p. At this level, the shares, unchanged yesterday at 58p, yield just over 3 per cent.

Jogging chic set boost Peter Black

By Our Financial Staff
The increase in "professional" jogging, with the early morning runners wearing proper sports wear, has given an added boost to the half-year profit figures of Britain's major Adidas supplier, Peter Black Holdings.

At the pre-tax level, the figure rose a tenth from £1.2m to £1.32m on sales almost a fifth higher at £15.8m. Profit

margins slipped a half point to 8.3 per cent.

The interim figures add another rung to the impressive growth record of the footwear and luggage manufacturer, and the joint chairman Mr Gordon Black is looking for a similarly good second six months. Sales of Adidas equipment are continuing to rise—Black is Britain's sole supplier of Adidas products not including the

sports shops—and will be added to turnover by this year's Olympic Games.

The interim dividend has been raised 10.44 per cent from 1.9p gross (adjusted for a one for one scrip issue) to 2.1p. A similar rise at the year end would give a total payout of 4.05p. Assuming this, the shares, which fell 3p to 103p yesterday, yield almost 6 per cent.

Morgan Crucible buys US group for £2.6m

Morgan Crucible which supplies specialized industrial components and materials, has acquired a private United States company for \$6m (£2.6m).

Franklin Oil, which is based in Cleveland, Ohio, manufactures specialized metal-working lubricants and sells largely in the American Mid-West. Its annual sales are about \$8m. It will become part of Morgan's Acorn division, which will operate as a sister company of Rocol which also supplies industrial lubricants.

The cash acquisition, which is Morgan's first in the United States for several years, will give the group the opportunity to market Rocol's products in the United States and also enable Franklin to enter the British market. Franklin will continue to trade under its present name and Mr R. I. Hamilton remains president.

Turnover trebled at Centroway

Centroway, the Birmingham-based motor holdings and industrial group, saw its profits advance at the halfway stage while turnover surged forward with a first time contribution from the Centroway vehicle group.

Turnover more than trebled in the six months to September 30, 1979, to £13.7m while pre-tax profits went up from £749,000 to £777,000. Chairman, Mr Anthony Cross, explained that the vehicle business, acquired in February 1979, provided £97,000 profits. On the manufacturing side, Edge Shoes contributed £330,000 profits compared with £273,000 at the same

time last year. But the metal pressings and industrial rubber products divisions saw a profit fall because of the engineering strike.

The interim dividend has been increased from 5.2p gross to 5.7p. Prospects for the second half are satisfactory but dependent on the end of the steel strike, added Mr Cross.

Grimshaw Hldgs buys Cindy

Industrial group Grimshaw Holdings has agreed to acquire the entire share capital of Liverpool based Cindy, which manufactures textile products and converts polyurethane sponge, for £450,000.

The deal involves the issue of 777,538 new ordinary shares in Grimshaw of which 85.5 per cent have been placed with institutional investors. The remaining shares will be held by the present directors of Cindy as a long-term investment. Cindy's unaudited management accounts for the nine months to September 30, 1979 show a pre-tax profit of £89,000.

ICL capital spending exceeds £98m

The poor economic outlook worldwide and the particularly uncertain prospects in the United Kingdom, makes it rash to forecast ICL's outlook for 1980. Mr Thomas Hudson, the retiring chairman of ICL, said in his annual statement.

He pointed out that 1979 capital expenditure which exceeded £98m was £28m greater than the previous year and included the fitting out of two new Manchester factories. The impact of current cost accounting on

profit is "broadly neutral", he said. The group's net cash position of £16.1m at the year-end was satisfactory, but uneven deliveries caused by industrial problems raised interest charges to £17.2m—£5.3m over the corresponding figure last year.

Britannia Building Soc. lending slows

Assets of the Britannia Building Society increased by 15 per cent in 1979 to reach a new peak of £1,247m. However, the society's lending was slightly down at £232.4m compared with £238.9m the previous year, and because of the increase in house prices the number of mortgages completed slipped from 24,000 in 1978 to 20,000. At the end of the year the society's reserve ratio was 3.9 per cent against 4.1 per cent at the beginning, while the liquidity ratio dropped from 22.0 per cent to 21.1 per cent.

Investors Capital revenue over £4m

For the first time, gross revenue of Investors Capital Trust, an investment trust, has topped the £4m mark, rising from £3.65m to £4.58m for the year to November 30. Net revenue available for ordinary shares expanded from £1.39m to £2.04m. The total ordinary dividend is being lifted from 2.95p to 4.14p, gross.

Geo Bassett in property deal

Geo Bassett Holdings' subsidiary GDS Transport recently completed construction of a new warehouse at Enfield, and has now entered into a sale and

less back agreement with an institutional investor. GDS Transport receives £1,500m in cash and simultaneously enters into a lease for a total of 25 years at a rental of £17.2m—£5.3m over the corresponding figure last year.

Unilever and GKN complete French deal

Following the announcement made last September, Unilever and GKN and Nettlefolds have now completed the acquisition by GKN of a majority interest in the Unigep Group. This comprises a number of French companies specialising in the distribution in France of automotive and industrial components.

Hume Trust has 85pc of Dawnay Day

St Swithin's Lane Investments, a subsidiary of Hume Investment Trust, has received acceptances totalling 85.3 per cent of the capital of Dawnay Day Group. The offer has been declared unconditional as far as acceptances and will remain open until January 21.

Although it will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission, the offer is still conditional on the Trade Secretary approving the change in control of Target Life Assurance and its subsidiary, Target Annuities, which are both owned by Dawnay Day. Hume's ultimate parent company is Rothschild Investment Trust.

Record bankruptcies in Japanese textiles

The number of bankruptcies in the Japanese textile industry totalled 1,363 in 1979, reaching an all-time record, a private credit research agency has reported. The previous record was 1,321 in 1968.

The agency said that the combined liabilities left by the collapsed textile firms also came to a new record 367,966m yen, surpassing the previous record of 351,408m yen.

The increase was blamed chiefly on the prolonged business slump. It was also said that the number of bankruptcies and liabilities rose because there were many failures with large debts in the year including Kayashiki Spinning Company, a major textile maker that went bankrupt last February with debts of 51.2bn yen. Apart from that, the recent marked increase in imports of textile products from Asian countries such as China and South Korea was another factor.

Queensland Brewery

The Queensland brewery (Australia), Castlemain Perkins, has made a formal

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Board says that on December 31, 75 per cent of issued share capital of Pext Precision was purchased by the company for £100,000 (UK) involving cash outlay of £45,000. Pext makes optical measurement projectors.

RIGHTWISE
Jarvis Holdings disposed on Jan 4 of 100,000 ordinary shares in Rightwise and is now interested in 55,630 ordinary shares (45.9 per cent). Rightwise, a subsidiary of Jarvis, bought on Jan 4 the above 100,000 ordinary shares (7 per cent).

SA215m (about £104m) offer for New South Wales Brewers, Toomeys, Castlemain Perkins, has made a formal

International

unanimously recommended shareholders to accept the offer.

Columbian Eurocredit

The Colombian National Grid Company, Interconexión Electrica SA, is raising \$47.4m (about £22m) through a Euro-credit, lead manager Samuel Montagu and Co states.

The 10-year loan with four years grace will be sold in the market as a 7 1/2 year loan, while the final 2 1/2 year portion will be privately placed by the management group.

Swissair

Gross earnings of Swissair Schweizerische Luftverkehr AG in 1979 were slightly below the

Briefly

ICJ
Holders of a further 1,411 5100 bonds have exercised their right of conversion into ICJ ordinary stock. Number of bonds

previous year's 244.4m Swiss francs, according to managing director, M. Arma Balteswiler.

Operational profits were reduced by the temporary grounding of the company's DC-10 aircraft ordered by the US Federal Aviation Administration which caused Swissair a net loss of 15m francs. M. Balteswiler said in the company's staff paper.

American Financial

American Financial Corporation in an amended filing with the SEC says it has raised its stake in Rapid-American Corporation to 14.9 per cent from 8.8 per cent of Rapid-American's common stock.

American Financial says the additional shares were purchased between December 24 and 31. The value and number of shares purchased were not immediately available from the company.

CD offer in Singapore

The Singapore branch of the Banque Nationale de Paris has announced the offer of \$50m three-year negotiable floating

now outstanding is \$5,465 representing \$55,465m.

NEGRETTE & ZAMBRA
At the extraordinary general meeting of Negretti & Zambra the resolution to approve sale of certain assets of industrial division to the British Rototherm Company was passed by shareholders. Negretti & Zambra has received first £550,000 of consideration due. Remaining £750,000 is payable by instalments over the period to March 31, 1981.

BANK OF SCOTLAND IN US
Group is opening a representative office in Los Angeles during February. Mr Fear

are certificates of deposits bearing an interest rate of 3-16 per cent above the six-month Singapore Interbank offered rate.

The issue is being lead managed by Banque Nationale de Paris (South East Asia), and co-managed by Merrill Lynch International (Asia) and Morgan Guaranty Pacific. Funds raised are to be used to finance various projects in the South-East Asian region.

Sperry Univac

Sperry Corporation's Sperry Univac Division of America says its revenue for the year ending March 31 will exceed the record \$2bn of 1979.

Based on results for the first half of 1979, the company expects its revenue to increase 16 per cent in shipments over 1979. The forecast was contained in a year-end statement on computer industry prospects in which Sperry Univac estimates the industry's 1980 worldwide shipments of general purpose computers at \$2.0bn, 15 per cent up on the \$1.8bn forecast for 1979.

Bennie, formerly a Manager of the Bank's International Division, will be in charge.

WERNICK GROUP EXPANSION
Wernick group of companies, based at Bletchley and Broomfield, has purchased Securicor for £1m. Wernick is already largest privately-owned maker of timber-framed system buildings in the United Kingdom, and Securicor have in recent years built up a considerable business in the same area of operations.

WERNICK GROUP TRUST
Pre-tax revenue for year 1979-80 was 30p up from £74,000 to £92,000. Total dividend, 10.71p (8.35p).

Guardian Royal Exchange premiums rise by 17pc

Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance's total worldwide new annual premiums in 1979 showed an increase of 17 per cent to £35.1m while new single premium business increased by 55 per cent to £19.8m. But the net new sums assured for 1979 fell to £2,874m (£2,918m in 1978). New annuities per annum reached £78m—rise of 28 per cent over 1978.

Mr Geoff Nunn, GRE's assistant general manager and principal actuary, said: "These figures represent a commendable achievement by our salesmen throughout the world during what many prophesied as being a difficult year. In the United Kingdom the successful launch of our Grella range of unlinked products has made a useful contribution and this shows up particularly in the new single premium figures. Similarly, the general improvements to pension schemes flowing in part from the new State Pension scheme in the United Kingdom are apparent in the new annuity figures. We continue to regard innovation and anticipation of market change as a sign of success and we look forward with confidence to the 80's."

LONDON LIFE

New annual premiums obtained in 1979 by London Life Association rose by 29 per cent to £5.9m. Single premiums were up by almost 40 per cent to £4.04m. Considerations for immediate annuities rose to £2.10m from £1.95m. The figures, which are net of external reinsurance, include the Managed Fund and Linked Assurance subsidiaries, but exclude the Federated Superannuation System for Universities.

MINSTER INSURANCE

Minster Insurance reports a strong growth in new ordinary life business last year. New annual premium income rose by 86.64 per cent to £364,551 of which £189,256 was contributed by the sale of endowment assurances in the main assigned for mortgage purposes. Sums assured rose from £23,24m to £37,43m and single premiums from £7,074 in 1978 to £664,625 in 1979.

Business appointments Management Consultants' new chairman

Mr John Armstrong and Mr Martin Vandenberg have been elected chairman and vice-chairman respectively of the council of the Management Consultants' Association.

Mr John Marsh becomes sales and deputy managing director of English Rose Kitchens. Two new directors are Mr David Monk and Mr Harry Hamond.

Viscount Boyd of Merton is to be president (previously chairman) of the Ross McWhirter Foundation and the Darcy Trust. Professor Sir Max Beff has been elected chairman and Mr Alan Lamboll secretary.

Mr B. R. Hodgson has been elected president of the Dry Lining & Partition Association.

Mr N. D. Cadbury has been appointed managing director of the division of D Cadbury & Co. He succeeds Mr W. H. Jones, who is retiring.

Mr David Wills joins the board of Chatterbox Development.

Mr C. W. Hutton has been re-elected chairman of the Lloyd's Underwriters' Association.

Mr P. E. Cooper is to become deputy chairman and chief executive of Spence (1948). He continues as deputy chief executive of Steel Brothers Holdings.

Mr Roger Barber, managing director of Spence, is to move to Singapore to take charge of the group's South East Asia operations.

P. J. Taylor is appointed a managing director with responsibility for the group's interests in Oman, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar. Mr T. J. Evans has retired from the board and Mr R. M. Murlison has resigned.

Mr E. A. Crosby has retired from the board of Crosby Spring Interiors and has been elected president. Mr R. Ash Barenan becomes a director.

Mr J. M. Robotham has joined the board of N.M.C. Investments.

Mr P. S. Aldrich joins the board of Fisons horticulture division as research director.

Mr Kevin Gavanagh, director of the Thomas Cook tour division, joins the board of Thomas Cook.

Mr Bernard Norman, group managing director-designate, has been appointed to the board of the Thomas Cook Group.

Mr Ray Milton has been promoted by Abbey Life Assurance to be executive director, property investment.

Mr L. E. Ashford is now deputy managing director of South Western & U.C.I. (Merton).

Mr T. Wiles has joined the board of Expo-Sure.

Mr Roger Lewis becomes a director of Wigham Poland Home.

Mr R. C. Hammett, ICI's general manager, commercial, has been appointed chairman of Paints Division. He succeeds Mr D. H. Henderson, who has been made an ICI director.

Mr Gavin Simmon has been appointed by British Rail Property Board to succeed Mr Robert Dashiell as managing director from March 31. Mr Dashiell is retiring.

Mr Peter Reynolds and Mr Ian Wade have joined the partnership of Albert E. Sharp, stockbrokers. Mr Rory Sweetman has been elected a member of the Stock Exchange.

Mr B. M. Hingworth joins the board of Marston Hingworth as production director.

Bank statements for December

Net loans and advances	20,566	+40	406	213	311	394	87
Other assets	13,287	+2,085	5,092	4,411	5,036	7,377	246
Total assets	13,287	+2,42	3,373	3,659	1,948	3,755	440
Capital deposits	1,436	+258	161	161	450	470	57
Reserve Government	846	—	161	58	108	152	19
Other	1,849	—	380	298	553	594	95
Total	34,747	+480	10,627	6,337	7,788	10,199	2,116
Reserve ratio (%)	12.3	—	—	—	—	—	—

Stock Exchange Prices

Profit taking in gold

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 28. Dealings End, Jan 11. Contango Day, Jan 14. Settlement Day, Jan 21

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days



BRITISH FUNDS				COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN				LOCAL AUTHORITIES				FOREIGN STOCKS				DOLLAR STOCKS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS				BREWERS AND DISTILLERS			
Code	Company	Price	Change	Code	Company	Price	Change	Code	Company	Price	Change	Code	Company	Price	Change	Code	Company	Price	Change	Code	Company	Price	Change	Code	Company	Price	Change
100	British Airways	100.00	0.00	100	British Airways	100.00	0.00	100	British Airways	100.00	0.00	100	British Airways	100.00	0.00	100	British Airways	100.00	0.00	100	British Airways	100.00	0.00	100	British Airways	100.00	0.00

Prices on this page are now supplied by the London Stock Exchange and are the latest prices available from London stock market dealers yesterday evening.

Various indices produced by The Times, including the Index of 150 Industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recommended to cover the period of non-publication.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on page 23

NON-SECRETARIAL

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For a home for 16 elderly professional people in a beautiful country house. The residents lead a very active social life, and are looking for someone with ideas to improve it.
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-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

PA to MANAGING DIRECTOR c. £6,000

The Managing Director of the Extel Group, which is a diverse communications based group with its head office near Fleet Street, is currently looking for a Personal Assistant. The PA will be responsible for ensuring that the MD's office runs smoothly and efficiently at all times. A large part of the work is administrative and the PA will be involved with arranging many of the company's social functions throughout the year. In more routine matters the PA will be assisted by the MD's secretary.

We are looking for someone in their late 20's/early 30's who has had at least five years' experience of working at senior executive level. Applicants must be of smart appearance and have excellent shorthand/typing speeds and be used to working under pressure. If you think you can meet the above requirements, please telephone Miss V. Law on 01-353 1080, Ext. 7, or write to:

The Personnel Manager,
The Exchange Telegraph Co. Ltd.,
Extel House, East Harding Street,
LONDON EC4P 4HP.



SEC./P.A. WITH P2AZZ £5,000

This is a brand new promotions venture and a great opportunity for a bright minded senior sec with that little bit extra. You'll be assisting the M.P. putting it all together. Top skills and s/h plus a level head. 24+

TWO PARTS £5,350

You'll be working for the board of director of a top ad. agency and you'll also be acting as a T.V. co-ordinator, so you'll need superb sec. skills plus above average ability to organize both jobs. It's hectic, but worth it. Plenty of perks, too.

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL £4,500

You'll need ad. agency experience, brilliant

typing and a bit of rusty shorthand and like working in a tight knit team. You'll be assisting two account directors of this small but rapidly expanding ad. agency and get a real opportunity to develop a career.

MAKE IT IN MARKETING £5,000

You'll be joining an enthusiastic, young, happy company that specialises in marketing projects working in the main for one director, but everyone mucks in. You'll be controlling devices, travel arrangements, in-house entertaining and involved in all aspects of the company. Super skills plus s/h. 20+

Please telephone Linette Boniface or Kate Lawrence on 493 6456

71 New Bond Street, London, W.1.

ADPOWER RANDSTAD STAFF CONSULTANTS

adpower randstad

Marketing Support Representative

Data Logic, one of the fastest growing companies in the Word Processing field, is seeking additional Marketing Support Representatives.

Data Logic's products include the Lextron range of stand-alone word processors, an American market leader in screen typing which is now achieving spectacular success in Great Britain, through its advanced design and simplicity of operation.

Joining the established team at our Central London headquarters you will be one of the first to meet our customers, major companies, public utilities and government departments. You will work with our sales executives, providing demonstrations as part of our selling operation, supervising the installation of new equipment and following up with customer training. It will then be up to you to ensure the continued satisfaction of our new users with their installations... you will take responsibility.

We are looking for women and men with a thorough knowledge of typing techniques and office administration. Previous experience of word processors would be an advantage, as would work in a marketing or sales environment.

Mobility is essential and a car will be provided. Salary will be negotiable plus commission. Future prospects should be outstanding for the right person.

For further information call Susan Gibson on 01-486 7288 or write enclosing a resume of your education and career to: John Wilson, Data Logic Ltd., 29 Marylebone Road, London NW1. Quoting Ref: TWP/126.



Personal Secretary to Deputy Chairman & Managing Director

The Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of a major public property investment company requires an experienced, well educated Personal Secretary, aged 23/35, to work in luxury offices near Holborn Circus. The post is varied and interesting, you would have your own office and be responsible for dealing with all of his business, travel and charitable commitments, as well as certain administrative duties.

We provide excellent benefits, including 18 days annual holiday plus six additional days at Bank holiday weekends, L.V.s, B.U.P.A. season ticket loan scheme and a non-contributory pension scheme. Salary in the region of £7,000 p.a.

For further details, please ring Pauline Lewis on 01-831 8331.



Medical Secretary Private Hospital Net Salary £6,000

The Oil Industry Medical Society requires a Secretary to work as a Personal Assistant to the Director General in a busy modern hospital in Tripoli, Libya. A mature individual is required with ten years medical secretarial experience.

The Contract is for two years. Benefits include generous allowances, a loan for car purchase, 32 days annual travel-paid leave in U.K. and 16 days interim vacation. A furnished apartment adjacent to the hospital is provided free.

Applicants should write, in complete confidence, quoting reference LIBYA/FR to:

F. Rothwell, C.B.E.,
Whitehead Technical Services Limited,
The Whitehead Consulting Group,
21 Wigmore Street, London W1H 9LA.

WHITEHEAD

Got the talent for Customer Relations & Sales? c. £7,000+car

Roboserve is a dynamic young company that is going places fast in the catering and auto-refreshment systems market. If you have the drive, personality and talent to build excellent customer relations and sell contracts for our top quality range of equipment, this job is right for you.

We have two vacancies at present: one in N. London/Herts, and one in W. Surrey/Hants for young (25 to 35 year old) men or women with good sales experience in a fast moving consumer or commercial product, and a background of successful customer service. The ideal person will have had some experience of dealing with client enquiries and problems - first hand in a tactful, efficient manner, and liaising with people up to the highest levels in the business world. Airline or media sales are considered relevant areas. You should at present live within easy access of the relevant areas.

Superb company benefits and product training will be offered, as well as negotiable salary to attract the highest calibre of applicant. If you are interested, please telephone Caroline Basbitt, Customer Relations Manager, confidentially on 01-998 2828, or write to her at Roboserve Limited, 19 Aintree Road, Perivale, Middlesex UB8 7LG.

FIRST CLASS CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY

We are an international sales organization looking for a person with good secretarial skills, sense of humour, ability to work on own initiative and be able to communicate with customers in a friendly manner.

In addition to excellent salary, we offer:-

- ★ Luncheon Vouchers £5 per week
- ★ Free Buffet Lunch
- ★ Luxury Mayfair Offices
- ★ Interest Free Season Ticket Loan

If you would like to join our young successful team, please contact (preferably in writing) -

Philip Stephens
THE TUPPERWARE COMPANY
43 Upper Grosvenor Street, London W1X 0BE
01-629 7861

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR/P.A. LEADING PROMOTION/PUBLICITY COMPANY

Experienced person required to control the administration of a new division in an expanding Sales Promotion House. Company clients include many well-known national Brands.

Good shorthand and typing essential. There will also be some client and supplier contact.

Attractive salary, good West End location.
Please 'phone Mrs. Lawrence
01-499 6875

P.A.

For M.D. of Consultancy

NR. OXFORD CIRCUS FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS
This is a very interesting and varied position which would suit a P.A./Senior Secretary.

Working in a busy, friendly office, the responsibilities include administration and secretarial duties, together with some accounts work, though experience in this field is not essential. An excellent salary is offered and benefits include a generous annual bonus, self-erecting electric typewriter, 4 weeks holiday and L.V.s.
To apply, please telephone Mr. Gordon on 01-606 1180 (Office), or 01-306 0826 (home).

MULTILINGUAL SECRETARIES BRUSSELS, PARIS, MILAN!

BRUSSELS: A fast-moving, flexible and dynamic P.A. to assist President of marketing firm. FRENCH and GERMAN required plus good shorthand in English and bookkeeping experience. Salary negotiable from £7,500 p.m.
PARIS: Experienced Secretary with good FRENCH for newly appointed senior executive of well-known U.S. firm located in the heart of Paris. Salary circa £5,000 p.m.
MILAN: Top calibre P.A./Secretary for Chairman of multinational company with H.Q. in Milan. Essential are: good technical skills, very good ITALIAN and preferably also SPANISH, FRENCH and GERMAN useful. Excellent salary.

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES

22 CHANCING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.2
01-336 3794/5
(Recruitment Consultants)

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

We are a leading Petrochemical Company seeking a capable, mature minded Secretary to work at Senior Management level. Ideally you will be aged 30+ with excellent shorthand and typing skills, experienced in dealing with all levels of staff and able to manage the day to day running of a busy department including the delegation and distribution of a fluctuating workload.

We offer an attractive salary, bonus and other fringe benefits. For further details and interview, please telephone Brenda Frost or Sally Tait on 01-837 3825, or write to: Stone & Webster Engineering Ltd., 236 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8BA.

PR/SECRETARY JEWELLERY DESIGNERS

A fast-expanding and world renowned gold and silver jewellery designer in the West End of London is looking for a small management team, as secretary to the General Manager and responsible for the PR and Advertising of his exciting company. Although experience in these fields would be an asset it is by no means essential. The more important is initiative, a lively personality, good organising and planning skills and the ability to become immersed in the job. Shorthand and typing skills are not essential. Salary will be more than £6,500. Applicants aged 20-35, please send CV to not less than 5,000 p.m. to: telephone Mrs. King on 493 5787.

Gordon Yates Ltd.
(Staff Consultants)
35 Old Broad Street
London, W.C.1

SPECIALIST TEMPORARY CONSULTANT c. £10,000

Major Recruitment Company seek a dynamic, self-motivated specialist in temporary recruitment. We are expanding fast from a successful base and would be interested in hearing about your professional experience - i.e. engineering, computers, secretarial, etc.

Interested? Then call Mark Madson in strictest confidence, 01-628 8055.

Churchill Personnel Consultants

Finance, Politics & Fine Arts
£7,000 + benefits
Our client, an internationally known peer review journal, and with chairmanships of numerous public companies ranging from finance to fine arts and charitable trusts, needs a P.A./Secretary.

The successful candidate will have an impeccable appearance, skills of 110/40, be energetic, flexible and have a desire for full involvement in his variety of activities. Age 28-40.

ANGELA MORTIMER
Recruitment Consultants
188 Piccadilly,
London, W.1.
01-629 9686

£7,000+

BI-LINGUAL SECRETARY

Internationally famous Swiss industrialist residing in London is seeking a high flying P.A./Secretary with excellent English and French shorthand/typing and preferably excellent German. Organise his life in the U.K. and travelling throughout the world, maintain his many properties worldwide. Service has business clients and associates. Excellent current location. Age 28+.

DOLCE SIMPSON, 439 7972
Centroc Recruitment Consultants

HOME FURNISHINGS

Experienced Sec. P.A. required for Managing Director of wholesale fabrics and soft furnishings company in Berners Street, W.1. This is a key position with a good variety of work. Shorthand and audio required. Salary range £5,000-£6,000 according to age and experience. Please Peter Alfa 01-580 8700

SOMETHING DIFFERENT AT JAYGAR...

FILM CO. W1 £5,500
Chairman needs P.A. with good organisational ability for varied and interesting work.
5 STAR HOTEL £5,300
Social know how + good sec and admin skills for interesting job with super perks.
PR WEST END £5,500
MD of leading Co needs P.A./Sec 130-407 for busy varied job.
CHELSEA £5,000
Business-like audio sec to run office. Friendly team of architects/designers.

55a Sloane Square London SW1
01-730 5148
Consultants



INTERVIEWER/CONSULTANT

This is an exciting opportunity for a dynamic person to join a leading international employment agency helping to provide a high standard of professional service to both applicants and clients. Excellent career prospects are offered to the successful applicants who will have to demonstrate their ability and maturity not only to communicate with people at all levels, but to participate with and contribute to the future growth of this fast expanding company. He/she will have a positive approach to all aspects of applicant placement and will relish the prospect of working on their own initiative. The successful applicants will receive a full training course at our own training centre, together with a very attractive salary and incentive bonus commensurate with the hard work and commitment that this job demands. We currently have vacancies for this position in the London area and provinces. For full details contact:

Mrs. Molly Routledge,
ALFRED MARKS LTD.,
17 Oxford Street, London, W.1.
Tel. 01-437 7855.

QUEEN ELIZABETH COLLEGE Kensington (University of London) PERSONAL ASSISTANT/ SECRETARY TO THE PRINCIPAL

An interesting appointment as Personal Assistant/Secretary to Dr. Robert S. James, the Principal of this science-based College, attractively situated in the heart of London, should have appeal at senior level and ability to organise a wide range of professional activities. Pension, Season Ticket loan.

Interested? Please apply enclosing C.V. to:
The College Secretary,
Queen Elizabeth College,
Campden Hill Road,
London, W8 7AH.

ARE YOU A PROFESSIONAL?

Busy film and television executive needs a senior secretary to work at Pinewood Studios, Iver Heath, Bucks.

Excellent shorthand and typing speeds vital! (Minimum shorthand 110 w.p.m., typing 65 w.p.m. - golfball). Previous experience in a legal office would be helpful but not essential, although a minimum of 2 years as an executive secretary of P.A. honours.

For an appointment telephone: Iver (0753) 652391

PER executive secretaries

TOP SALARY FOR A TOP P.A. SECRETARY

The Director of a world famous Engineering Company based in the 20th Ave. requires an experienced P.A. Secretary who will receive a salary commensurate with her abilities. With an assistant the P.A. Secretary will assist in the running of the Director's office. A smart appearance and good telephone voice are essential. Good salary and benefits. Own office. CONTACT: GILL SEDHAM.

01-235 9984
CITY Starting £7,500

This is the ideal opportunity for a very efficient Secretary with shorthand skills of 120 w.p.m. who wishes to make a wider career with a leading firm. Good level and a very good educational background. The successful candidate will be aged 25-35 with a pleasant, smart appearance will be fully career motivated. In return the rewards and prospects will be exceptional. CONTACT: DAWN SHAFER.

01-235 9984

PER Executive Secretaries,
4/5 Grosvenor Place,
London SW1X 7SB.

BI-LINGUAL ENGLISH/ITALIAN SECRETARY/P.A.

LOCATION: VICTORIA

International Drinks company requires an experienced Secretary/P.A. to the Director/General Manager. The applicant should have three years' commercial experience, preferably in an international company, and must be fluent in Italian as well as English, and capable of shorthand and typing in both languages.

In addition to first class secretarial skills, this demanding position requires initiative and the ability to take personal responsibility.

The successful applicant will be offered a first class salary together with usual fringe benefits. Please send full details to The Personnel Manager, 28 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6LR.

£6,500 IN MAYFAIR

The managing director of a large group with diverse interest needs a Sec./P.A. Age 30-35. You will need good organising skills to take control of a busy office, plan a very heavy schedule and liaise with other senior management. Share superb offices with own assistant.

Directors' Secretaries
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
Tel: 01-629 9323

SECRETARY/ASSISTANT

A small but wide spread international European Consultancy Group is looking for a mature SENIOR SECRETARY capable of working with, not for, one of its senior partners in London. In addition to main stream consultancy work the partner concerned also handles the group's international legal and secretarial work.

Someone in their thirties, or thereabouts, who has a good education ('A' levels at least) impeccable secretarial skills and the capability to handle everything from coffee making through complex travel arrangements to placating upset clients. The work will be enjoyable and satisfying with money at the top end of current practice but promotion, frankly, will be difficult.

Those interested should write to: Marla Duchesne, c/o Robert Marshall Advertising Ltd., 46 Wellington Street, London WC2E 7JL.

PERSONAL SECRETARY AT LONDON BRIDGE

UP TO £6,000 PLUS

Annual Bonus, L.V.s, BUPA, 4 Weeks Holidays

Senior Partner of a small firm of Chartered Accountants, with many outside Directorships, needs an efficient Secretary, aged 25-40, who must have an attractive personality, excellent shorthand and typing speeds and is able to drive. The work involved is correspondence and typing reports, but no accounts typing. In addition, his secretary drives him to his meetings.

The firm has a happy atmosphere and very pleasant offices overlooking the Thames at London Bridge.

If this interests you please ring Mrs. Monteath on 01-407 1902 to make an appointment.

Lloyds Brokers

PA Secretary to main board director of well established city firm. Impeccable speeds and senior level experience essential.

Personnel Administration c. £5,250 + mortgage
City merchant bank seeks secretary (100/60) for two personnel officers.



734 4284
CONSULTANTS

P.A. SECRETARY-£6,000

Due to my present Secretary's husband being moved out of London a vacancy has arisen for a well-educated person to take over as Personal Assistant to the Senior Partner of an Architect's Practice in Jermyn Street, St. James's. You should have good shorthand and typing skills, an aptitude for organising, have a minimum of one A level pass grade. Ideally be aged between 25-35 and be self-motivated.

You will be responsible for the administrative staff in our London, Glasgow and Chester offices, with frequent travelling to each of them and be jointly responsible with the Senior Partner for the smooth administration of the whole practice. Your commencing salary will be £6,000 per annum with 4 weeks holiday.

Please ring Carol Rouse on 01-620 9010 to arrange an interview.

BILINGUAL SECRETARY

Full time Secretary required immediately for the London office of a Swiss industrialist. Excellent knowledge of English and French, shorthand, good knowledge of German. Some experience of book-keeping preferably. Good sense of organisation.

Reply to:
GUNTHER SACHS,
125 OLD CHURCH ST., LONDON, S.W.3.
or 'phone 01-351 3438

مكتبات الأصيل

